

Strikers block supplies to firefighting soldiers

As the firemen's strike showed signs of hardening yesterday, a barracks at Bootle, Merseyside, was picketed with the aim of halting supplies to firefighting troops. At a Downing Street meeting with Mr Callaghan senior fire officers' leaders called for a conference of all parties to the dispute.

Union move today to dissuade pickets

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Senior Fire Brigades Union representatives are expected to move today to dissuade their striking members from obstructing troops carrying out fire duties.

There were signs that the strike was hardening yesterday as the union sent all TUC-affiliated unions an appeal for financial and "other forms" of support.

In Bootle on Merseyside a picket was mounted with the aim of stopping supplies to 100 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, who have been transferred to fresh barracks from Bootle for lack of facilities.

The FBU executive decided yesterday to exclude from its plans to spread the dispute through other unions any attempt to stop supplies of fuel to firefighting troops.

Mr Robert Roxburgh, FBU, Bootle branch secretary, said yesterday that the union's aim would be to make "life as difficult as possible" for the troops.

He added: "We have urged corporation electricians and plumbers going in, and an to turn away all routine supplies, including milk and coal."

Major Graham Brown, commanding officer at the new base Trinity Road, said last night: "This is going to be the union we shall have to range for the necessary supplies to be brought in by military vehicles."

Senior officials of the FBU, who have been anxious not to let what it believes is a case of public support for the firemen's strike, were in touch with the Merseyside strike committee.

The union's policy is that pickets outside military bases should only try to dissuade fire officers from entering but should not turn away drivers of vehicles supplying or servicing the bases.

The union acknowledges that where picket lines are set up outside Service depots some drivers are automatically reluctant to cross them but officials are expected to remind the Bootle men today that union policy is for the drivers to be allowed to pass freely into the depots.

Part of the explanation advanced by the FBU yesterday for the Bootle action was that there is at present no sitting executive member for Merseyside after the election of Mr Wilfrid Barber as the union's president.

There have been similar reports of pickets turning away vehicles bound for army bases in West Midlands but the Transport and General Workers' Union is understood to have made clear that that is not part of union policy.

Supportive action of other kinds by all TUC affiliated unions will be considered from today, however, when they receive a circular sent out by the FBU by first-class mail last night.

It recalls that the Prime Minister told the union executive on Tuesday that the strike could not succeed and says that without the help of other unions the Prime Minister could well be proved correct.

The circular calls for unions to give financial support and any other form of support for the union's present action which might apply to the membership of your union at local or national level.

Senior fire officers call for peace talks

Fred Emery
Editorial Editor

A proposal for a conference to settle the fire service pay, to be led by government as well as local authority employers, including firemen and non-strike fire officers, was being held last night.

The proposal was made during a meeting at 10 Downing Street yesterday between Mr Callaghan and the executive of the National Fire Officers' Association, the middle-ranking officers who have not joined the firemen's strike.

But Mr Callaghan emphasized that there had to be something to discuss, and a productive deal in prospect that

complied with the Government's pay guidelines.

"The Prime Minister made it clear that he is not interested in subterfuge or in phoney deals," an official statement from Downing Street said. Such a conference could be held only if the conditions could be met.

It was evident from Whitehall comment last night that no deal was in sight and that if one could have been found it would have been agreed long since.

The Prime Minister had his statement issued after his meeting with the fire officers' executive. It appeared that he wished to play down the officers' suggestion of a round table conference.

Continued on page 2, col 1



Morecambe and Wise, by Nicholas Munro, find a place in an exhibition of sculpture in Regent's Park, London, opened yesterday.

28 journalists held as South Africans vote

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Nov 30

White South African voters went to the polls today to elect parliamentary and provincial representatives for the next five years. It was the country's seventeenth general election since the Act of Union in 1910.

After a slow start, largely due to bad weather in the Cape and Transvaal, voting was reported to be brisk in most parts of the country, particularly in key urban seats, where close results were expected.

In Transvaal one of the first people to vote was Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, who lives in the Rivonia constituency in Pretoria. He and his wife, Mrs Innie Vorster, were welcomed by the student choir from Pretoria University, who sang a verse from Psalm 134.

Initial trends in Transvaal appeared to confirm opinion poll predictions that the ruling National Party was set for an overwhelming victory, but that the opposition Progressive Reform Party (PRP) was likely to pick up substantial numbers of new voters.

The New Republic Party (NRP) appeared to be trailing the Nationalists and Progressives in three-cornered fights. There was little support for the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP).

In the East Rand town of Boksburg the country's oldest voter, Mr William Webber, who will be 100 next week, voted for the National Party for the first time in his life. He had previously been a committed supporter of the now defunct United Party (UP).

A heavy turnout was reported in Natal, where the NP, PRP and NRP have been trying to win the votes of English-

speaking South Africans, who traditionally used to support the Union Party.

A total of more than one million whites were expected to cast their votes for 589 parliamentary and provincial candidates in 123 constituencies. Forty-two Nationalist MPs and two PRP MPs have been returned unopposed.

The National Party, which held 116 of Parliament's 165 seats at the time the elections were called, was hoping to win a record 128 seats.

Despite the predictable outcome of the election, white South Africans showed keen interest in the way voting patterns were developing in marginal constituencies.

However South Africa's 18 million voteless blacks showed little interest. Mr Peter Lengene, chairman of the Soweto Ratepayers' Association, remarked: "These elections are entirely the white man's business. They have nothing to do with us."

Earlier today 28 black journalists were arrested while holding a protest march, to the John Vorster Square police headquarters in Johannesburg. They will appear in court tomorrow on charges of holding an illegal gathering.

The journalists, former members of the banned Union of Democratic Journalists (UDJ), were calling for the release of eight of their colleagues detained without trial.

Police believe an explosion this afternoon on a train travelling between Johannesburg and Pretoria was caused by a bomb hidden in a post bag. A railway employee was slightly injured.

W German trade squeeze, page 17

President Carter welcomes Sadat peace initiative and announces his representative for Cairo talks

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 30

President Carter today officially warmly welcomed Egyptian President Sadat's recent moves towards peace in the Middle East, and formally announced that the American representative at the Cairo preparatory talks will be Mr Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs.

Mr Carter said that Mr Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was a "historic breakthrough", showing great courage, and was a "renewed commitment". He said that it met two of Israel's deepest ambitions: the desire for face to face negotiations with the Arabs and the demand that the Arabs should recognize Israel.

The President, who was giving a press conference, was asked whether the hostility shown by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization did not make a separate peace between Israel and Egypt likely. He replied: "We and Egypt and Israel have all taken the position publicly, and the same position privately among ourselves, that a separate peace agreement between Egypt and Israel to the exclusion of other parties was not desirable."

"This is predicated upon the very viable hope that a comprehensive settlement can be reached among the parties involved. If at some later date it becomes obvious that Jordan does not want peace, or that Syria does not want peace, or that Lebanon does not want peace, then an alternative might have to be pursued. But we have certainly not reached that point yet."

"I think that the other Arab leaders do want peace with Israel. I am certainly not even considering, and neither is Sadat nor Begin, any assumption that the possibilities have narrowed down to those two nations", Mr Carter said.

Later in the conference the President said that he had been urging all other Arabs to support Sadat in his initiatives. There was no doubt in his mind that President Assad of Syria wanted peace with Israel. He said that it was sometimes difficult for Arab leaders to convey their points of view directly.

He also said that if there were a breakthrough in the future, for example if King Hussein were to negotiate directly with Israel, then the United States would support it enthusiastically.

Moscow: The Soviet Union appeared to have retained Syrian support for efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement, despite attempts by radical elements to incorporate Damascus in a "rejectionist" front.

A statement issued after talks between President Brezhnev



Mr Alfred Atherton: US Cairo delegate.

and Mr Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, said the two countries held "identical views" on how a just and lasting peace should be established in the Middle East.

The statement also contained implicit criticism of both Egypt for its direct negotiations with Israel and of Arab radicals for their outright opposition to any peace discussions and particularly to the long-suspended Geneva conference.—Reuter.

Patricia Clough writes from Bonn: Mr Dyan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said here that Israel was prepared to negotiate separate peace treaties with Egypt and with other Arab countries.

Israel would prefer to see all the Arab countries participating in the Cairo talks, he told a press conference here. But, he added, if the Syrians and Jordanians did not go to Cairo "I think it would be better to deal with the Egyptians rather than not have any contact at all."

Moshe Beilinson writes from Tel Aviv: Israel has rejected a proposal by Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, for a conference in New York of all parties to the Middle East dispute.

Officials said privately that Dr Waldheim's suggestion appeared to have been directed by Moscow and to be serving Syria, the PLO and others attempting to undermine President Sadat's peace initiative.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem issued a statement supporting the idea of direct talks such as those conducted in Jerusalem between Mr Sadat and Mr Begin and those to be held in Cairo. The Geneva peace conference could be resumed after the Cairo talks and there was no need for additional preparatory meetings, it said.

Arab developments, page 6

Tory tactics on Scots Bill yield little reward

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

As the Scotland Bill surges through the Commons, driven inexorably under the motive power of the guillotine, the Conservative campaign to safeguard the unity of the United Kingdom and ensure the supremacy of the Westminster Parliament after devolution to an assembly in Edinburgh has yet to score any notable success.

Indeed, as amendment follows amendment from the Tory benches, both front and back, it is becoming increasingly clear that the party's overriding purpose is to strip so many of the powers from the proposed assembly that it will be little more than a talking shop.

Throughout the committee stage, which reached day four in the Commons last night, government majorities, with the exception of the surprise defeat on clause 4, have remained comfortably in the upper twenties and thirties.

But those majorities reflect no widespread enthusiasm for the Bill. Scarcely a speaker in the debate so far has come out wholeheartedly for what the Government is doing, and the division victories show only that opponents of devolution in its present form are too divided to form an effective deterrent.

Indeed, over the past few days of the committee stage, the thin attendances indicate that only the most devoted opponents are prepared to make their positions known.

As the guillotine fell last night, the House completed clause 22 of the 83 clauses of the Bill. At the same stage of the ill-fated Scotland and Wales Bill of the last session, only the five lines of clause 1 had been carried. But the guillotine is cutting a severe toll in terms of clauses that have to be agreed without debate. At the latest count at least 12 clauses have passed through the Commons without discussion.

On Tuesday night the guillotine prevented a debate on the question of assembly powers of taxation for Scottish purposes. MPs opposing Scottish powers on both sides of the House kept earlier debates

going until the 11 o'clock guillotine.

But this week many MPs, particularly on the Labour benches, have become increasingly suspicious that the Tory leadership, under the wily guidance of Mr Pym, the party's devolution spokesman, is playing a crafty game, ready to adjust its public opinion north of the border at election time.

Indeed there has been no clear statement during the committee stage from the Conservatives whether the party is still for five Front Bench to indicate any kind of assembly, with or without meaningful powers.

The distinct impression is that Mr Pym and his merry men, no longer heavily influenced by Mr Taylor, shadow Secretary, a rigid opponent of devolution, are back-peddalling hard.

On Tuesday night Mr Pym's colleague, Mr Britten, made clear that the Tories consider the Bill "parlous, undesirable" and warned the Government that it was creating a time-bomb by establishing an assembly within a unitary state.

Last night, as the Commons reached clause 22, the method of scrutiny of Scottish assembly Bills to determine whether they were within its legislative competence, was established by a Scottish executive, Conservatives were again battling to ensure that Westminster should have the last say. The Bill proposes that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council should decide on issues of legislative competence.

A Conservative backbench amendment proposing that Parliament rather than the Secretary of State should consider any claim that the assembly was acting outside its legislative competence, was defeated by 282 votes to 245, Government majority 37.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Football results

Bolton 1, Leeds 3.
Exeter 4, Newport 2.
Hereford 2, Walsworth 3.
Weymouth 0, Gillingham 1.

European radio to be given a trial run

By Kenneth Gosling

Agreement has been reached in Brussels for a European radio service to be given a "trial run" in the period up to the direct elections to the European Parliament.

That was announced yesterday by Mr Gerard Mansel, managing director, external broadcasting, BBC, who said it would operate for not less than four months.

It is proposed that there should be a daily 30-minute programme in as many of the languages of the European Community as possible.

The BBC took the initiative in suggesting a genuinely European radio service of news and current affairs, to be broadcast in French, German and English, soon after Britain's membership of the EEC was confirmed.

Late discussion with a number of European broadcasting authorities revealed encouraging support for the idea. Technical and financial feasibility studies are still in progress.

EEC annual report, page 4

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Quells fears of rising interest rates

The Bank of England acted to quell fears that interest rates would continue to rise by telling the markets that it considered last week's 2 point rise in minimum lending rate sufficient. The Bank's announcement had immediate effect with Treasury bills falling to their consistent with increase in M3R tomorrow. Gilt and stocks finished with gains on 11.

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Polish ships switch

British Shipbuilders are keeping their pledge to reassign part of the Polish shipbuilding deal to other yards after workers at Swan Hunter & Tyne, failed to give assurances of cooperation. Govan will build one of three ships now reallocated.

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Steelmen's union rejects 6 pc offer

A British Steel Corporation offer of 6 per cent for production workers was rejected by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which tabled a demand for 10 per cent plus 1 per cent consolidation.

Pay onslaught, page 2

Refugees can stay

The Australian Government has rejected a demand by Vietnam that it should return 181 people on board a hijacked trawler which has arrived in Darwin. Several hundred refugees have landed in Australia recently, but this is the first diplomatic wrangle.

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'Children on drugs'

Tens of thousands of schoolchildren are being put on long-term drug therapy because their behaviour does not fit in with their school's requirements, according to a sociology lecturer. The allegation is disputed by the Department of Health.

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'Superb' record of universities

Lord Todd, President of the Royal Society, said that in the chorus of complaint about the universities' irrelevance to the nation's economic needs it was often overlooked that the universities in recent years had discharged their responsibilities superbly.

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Shadow on Verona

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, meet in Verona today. The Kappler affair casts a shadow over the meeting. The Italian press yesterday commented on the former SS colonel being "protected like a minister" in Germany.

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Railways: The case for further mainline electrification is to be considered by the Government and British Rail

United States: Abortion debate holds up pay for 240,000 government staff

Nigeria: A 16-page Special Report

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HOME NEWS

Lord Todd answers critics of universities with reminder of their 'superb' aid to expansion

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Lord Todd, President of the Royal Society, suggested yesterday there were serious misunderstandings about the best way to encourage and harness scientific research in the United Kingdom.

He also said: "In these days of rampant egalitarianism our concern for an elite in science may be regarded by some as outmoded. But it is not. In science the best is infinitely more important than the second best: that is the belief of the society, and a country that ignores or forgets it does so at its peril."

Giving the anniversary address to the society, Lord Todd described the present as a disappointing period in British history. "Coming on a stream of oil from the North Sea does not conceal the fact that the white-hot technological revolution which came to pass and the pound in the pocket is far from being what it used to be," he said.

"In much of industry there has been so little profit for so long that some manufacturers are allowing plants to run down and even skimping on the research and development that must surely be essential to any regeneration of British industry."

At a time of youth's unsatisfied aspirations for opportunity, of growing egalitarianism often coupled with a lowering of educational standards, those working in education, and especially in higher education, sensed irony in the contrast between the Government's enthusiastic launching of the Robbins expansion in 1963 and the present stagnation.

Some feared that our universities might be irreparably damaged as a result of the present crisis. He did not share their pessimism. British intellectual life remained as vigorous as ever. Scientific research was still flushed with success and full of promise. During the period 25 fellows of the society won Nobel Prizes, and had made outstanding contributions in many fields: radioastronomy, astrophysics, chemistry, neurophysiology, plant genetics and molecular biology.

But in the present economic gloom the city went up: "What has all this exciting work done for the country's economic problems?"

ominously, politicians asked why a country in such economic straits should support academic research. Had not the time come when the universities should be harnessed to regeneration of the economy and research devoted to the needs of manufacturing industry: to making better transistors or cars or sewing machines?

"Such criticisms are based upon a profound misunder-

standing of what universities are for and on a failure to appreciate what they have done since the last war. It is too easily forgotten that between the forces and the Robbins report in 1963, government, industry and indeed, the country at large, was trying out far more and more trained scientists and engineers."

In the chorus of complaint about their irrelevance to the country's economic needs it is too often overlooked that the universities have discharged their responsibility superbly. In less than a quarter of a century the numbers graduating in science and technology from British universities have multiplied by three and the numbers graduating with higher qualifications in technical subjects have increased still faster.

For the first time industry had enough technically trained people to satisfy its needs. Through the period when the burgeoning universities and polytechnics were two of the principal consumers of their own products: trained and talented young people.

People who complained that universities had become irrelevant forgot that they had accomplished economically and without fuss the enormous task of expansion they were set by the nation less than 15 years ago.

Complaints were made of something wrong in the education of scientists and technologists because many companies found that new graduates did not slip easily into their new roles in industry. But it did not follow that there was anything radically wrong with university courses. Acclimatisation of recruits in industry had always been difficult. The reasons for this dissatisfaction thus undoubtedly existed were more subtle.

It could be argued that in our rush to expand university education we had sucked into the stream of tertiary education a substantial number of those who might have been more appropriately trained through the more vocational education that was the function of polytechnics.

Although minor changes could be made, Lord Todd saw nothing fundamentally wrong with university training in science and technology for those who were to play a leading role in industry and especially for those who were to provide the drive behind research and development.

Research in universities had a double function. One was a training role vital to the development of creative scientists and technologists which, although exercised primarily at the postgraduate level, also permeated the undergraduate years in its effect on teaching and on the liveliness of the staff.

Second was the advancing of the frontiers of knowledge. To fulfil that dual role, academic research must be essentially uncommitted. That was not to say that it should have no objective; all research must be committed to that extent; but it should not be dominated by short-term practical or economic reasons.

For that reason, he believed, proposals for joint industry-university PhD courses, or that universities should orient their research to meet specific industrial needs, were misguided. Industry was the proper place for industrial research.

That did not belittle many contributions made incidentally by university departments to industrial research and development.

"There is often talk of a gap between certain industries and the university departments of science and technology related to them. But to the extent that it exists it is a gap of understanding which can be put right by closer personal contacts. It will not be closed by endeavouring to make university research departments do the job of industry or vice versa."

The universities clearly had to live with whatever level of research funding the Government could afford. But to do so effectively needed a selection and concentration on those centres where the greatest potential lay.

University research faced two main difficulties. First, there was growing obsolescence of equipment, owing in part to spreading money for research too thinly over too many places, not all of which were of the standard that they should be.

Second, new universities had been created and the old had expanded so rapidly that they had consumed a large proportion of their own products to provide adequate staff.

A very large number of permanent university posts were thus created and filled by young men and women of effectively the same age group, all of them with many years of service ahead before retirement.

On top of that, the acute financial stringency experienced by the universities in recent years, coupled with an easing of the pressure on exiles, had caused universities to restrict severely the filling of posts rendered vacant by retirement. Such action, understandable from the university administrator's standpoint, had almost blocked the way ahead for many of the bright young men and women now coming forward.

That state of affairs had in varying degree affected more than 100,000 students in the universities but its effects were especially dangerous in science. For those bright young scientists, although small in number, were the feeders for our future industries.



Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, with stones from the old Blackfriars station preserved in the new.

Electrification of more BR main lines to be considered

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

The Government is to make a fresh review with British Rail of the case for further main-line electrification in the light of the fuel situation.

Early candidates might include the East Coast main line first as far as Peterborough and then to York and Edinburgh; and the East Anglian line from Colchester to Clacton.

In its official response to the select committee's report on the railways published in May, the Government said that until recently it was difficult to justify further main-line electrification, even with higher oil costs against modern diesel locomotives. But oil was expected to become scarcer and dearer and long-term prospects generally must be taken into account in considering further projects. Greater reliance would need to be placed on sources of energy other than oil.

The Government welcomes the select committee's view that the railways have an important future and that no big cuts need be made in the present system.

The 1977 forecasts, included in the Government's response, show £199m direct costs and £523m indirect costs for the railway passenger business, against revenue of £565m.

Inner-City, with revenue of £275m and costs of £162m, is expected to contribute £113m to indirect costs, and London and South-east, with revenue of

£217m and costs of £165m, should contribute £52m.

But cross-country services, with costs of £69m and revenue of £43m, are expected to fall by £26m to meet even their direct costs, and provincial city services, with costs of £43m and revenue of £30m, should fall by £13m. Total government support to British Rail passenger services this year is estimated at £356m.

Commuter difficulties: Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, called yesterday for a public debate on the "deeply serious issues" of South-east commuter fares and services.

Defending the railways' decision to raise commuter fares by 16 per cent in January compared with 14 per cent for travellers generally, Mr Parker said that was where the costs arose, and common sense dictated a recognition of that reality.

The underuse of enormous assets, generally for only four hours a day, created special difficulties in London and the South-east, which could not be met by waving a magic wand. It was a "very deep problem", which deserved more public discussion than it had received.

Speaking at the opening of a £12m redevelopment of Blackfriars station, Mr Parker said the development land tax might frustrate further schemes such as that proposed for Liverpool Street.

Group will study 'racism' in schools

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Commission for Racial Equality decided yesterday to set up a working party to monitor alleged racist activities in schools after receiving "scores of complaints" from members of the public about racist incidents in schools in their areas.

Mr Clifton Robinson, deputy chairman of the commission and former head of a school in Leicester, said it had received reports of racist activities, most involving the National Front, in schools in Calderdale, Bristol, Cleveland, Merseyside, Tyne and Wear, Rotherham, Leicester, and parts of London.

A meeting of many national organisations, convened by the commission yesterday, agreed that measures must be taken to combat what Mr Robinson described as "deliberate attempts by outsiders to penetrate the school system and to inject racism into schools."

Those present at the meeting included representatives of the Department of Education and Science, the Home Office, the National Association of Community Relations Councils, the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Head Teachers, the Association of County Councils, the Association of Municipal Authorities, the National Association for Multi-Racial Education and the Inner London Education Authority.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Mr Robinson gave examples of the activities complained of. In one school, National Front members had persuaded some parents to withdraw their children from schools with pupils of different races when multiracial activities were going on.

In the other former school, Uplands Junior, National Front leaders had come in and assaulted the black children, some of the teachers and teachers' union members. National Front had been put under great pressure to take out of the religious education courses parts that dealt with the religious of other races.

Mr Sam Fisher, chairman of the National Union of Teachers' education committee, who attended yesterday's meeting, said the union was drawing up a statement of advice for members on ways to combat racism in schools. He said that such activities were still only "very peripheral."

Mr Frank Cummings, a commissioner with the Commission for Racial Equality and head of a school in West Bromwich, said that National Front activities in schools was infinitesimal.

Dentists say service is in danger of collapse

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

A meeting of dentists declared yesterday that the dental service under the National Health Service was in danger of total destruction. Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, they said, should either accept this responsibility for providing a comprehensive service or hold a public inquiry to consider alternative methods of caring for patients.

About two hundred dentists attended a meeting at Central Hall, Westminster. It was organized by the Trent Regional Action Committee, formed to protest about scales of fees under which a full service was said to be impossible, and a government move to clamp back expenses.

Mr John Harris, of Chesterfield, said the friendly relationship between dentist and patient was breaking down because the dentist could not afford to do certain work. Patients had to ask more patients to pay. Patients were no longer seeking the treatment that was their right.

Mr Nigel Knorr, of Wiltshire,

said the Government had imposed sanctions on the service by the £20 charge for dentures.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, MP, opposition spokesman on health and social services, said NHS morale had never been lower. The meeting was an expression of similar dismay among doctors and nurses.

The meeting carried a motion to set up an independent survey of practice expenses and for an extraordinary general meeting of the British Dental Association to consider representation on negotiating bodies. Junior doctors' protest: The British Medical Association is supporting junior hospital doctors who are refusing to pay recent increases of as much as 100 per cent in rental charges levied by health authorities. The monthly rent for a bed-sitting room has gone up from about £40 to £75-80. The charges are deducted from salaries.

The junior doctors are to inform employing authorities of their intention not to pay the increases, so that any subsequent deduction for a new amount would be unlawful.

Matron for trial after Bolton inquest verdict

A coroner yesterday ordered that Mrs Helen Messer, matron of a private nursing home, should appear at a Crown Court after the jury at an inquest at Bolton, Greater Manchester, had returned a verdict of manslaughter on Mrs Mary Newton, aged 81, a patient at the home.

Mrs Messer, aged 42, had earlier denied trying to "finish off" Mrs Newton, at Ladywood nursing home, Bolton. Mr David Black, the coroner, said she would be given bail of £50.

Mrs Messer admitted giving her patient a morphine injection just before she died, but said it was to kill her pain. She also rejected allegations by an auxiliary nurse that she pressed a pillow to Mrs Newton's head in an attempt to "finish her off."

Mrs Josette Bradbury, a nurse, had said earlier that Mrs Messer told her: "I have been doing this for four years." Mrs Newton died two days later.

Mrs Bradbury also said she was shocked and horrified when she found Mrs Messer leaning on a pillow over Mrs Newton's head. She said she was told by the matron to go away if she did not like what she was seeing.

Mrs Messer said yesterday that she could understand nothing of what Mrs Bradbury alleged, and added that she had a "bee in her bonnet" because she had no SRN badge.

Mrs Messer denied trying to smother Mrs Newton after allegedly saying "I cannot stand it any longer." She also denied allegations of trying to help out any other dying patients. She admitted that by the strict letter of the law she should not have had an amputee of morphine at the home. But she gave Mrs Newton the injection, and did not think it necessary to telephone a doctor beforehand.

BBC chairman predicts 30% rise in licence fees

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC will probably be seeking an increase of about 30 per cent in television licence fees by next July, Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the corporation, said yesterday. Introducing the annual report, he said the BBC expected a deficit of between £10m and £17m at that time. It was estimated that there were about 850,000 licence fee evaders, who cost the BBC £12m a year.

Both Sir Michael and Mr Ian Trethowan, director-general, emphasized the need for the Government to establish a fee settlement to last more than one year. Sir Michael recalls in the report that the single-year system was adopted for the first time this year.

If repeated it would create a situation dangerously akin to an annual grant-in-aid. That had been repeatedly rejected by government committees of inquiry as being bound, sooner or later, to undermine the BBC's constitutional independence.

The report contained in the BBC's handbook for 1978, explained the point: "We work on a five-year rolling budget, but would find it difficult if not impossible to do so if annual or even biennial increases became the norm." At anything less than two years, a dangerous short period, there was cause for alarm.

Domestic services had a total income of £232,872 and expenditure was £229,945, leaving a surplus of £2,927,000 to set off against the £2,386,000 from the previous year. The report says:

Had it not been for continuing economies in all services, the effect of pay policy on salaries and wages, and unexpectedly buoyant colour receiver sales, the BBC would have ended its financial year close to the maximum of its borrowing powers.

As it was, thanks to the buoyancy of conversions to colour and some unexpectedly additional income from sales of licences by the Post Office, we were able to keep well within the limits, though still in deficit by £3.5m on March 31, 1977, of inflation at rates still in double figures.

The Post Office estimates that 10,500,000 colour receivers are in use against 7,500,000 black-and-white sets.

The BBC reports a reduction in staff for the second year running: 25,719, compared with 25,963 the year before.

On regional policy, the board of governors says: "We are being encouraged." In Scotland our policy has sometimes been misunderstood and regarded as an English attempt to put a brake on what is seen there as an inexorably advancing vehicle of constitutional change. That is not our policy.

The governors are "sympathetically aware" of the frustration felt in Wales. People had expected tangible results of the decision to use the fourth network in Wales for television programmes in Welsh, but that was held up by financial factors. "We did hope that some special dispensation will be given in favour of this good cause before too long."

BBC Handbook 1978, incorporating the annual report and accounts, 1976-77, (BBC, 55 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1M 4AA, £2).

Strong Labour opposition to direct elections Bill

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Arrangements for United Kingdom elections temporarily suspended in other EEC countries to vote in the European Parliament direct elections and for EEC nationals resident in the United Kingdom to vote in British constituencies are being proposed put forward in the latest batch of amendments to the direct elections Bill, published yesterday.

The Bill, strongly opposed by most Labour backbenchers, begins its committee stage in the Commons today.

There are amendments from the Scottish and Welsh nationalists and from the Ulster Unionists, challenging the allocation of 81 seats to the United Kingdom. The Scots want it to be 87, with 16 instead of eight constituencies in Scotland; the Welsh want a total of 91, with 14 instead of four constituencies in Wales.

The crucial Labour-Conservative amendment to leave out its section providing for the regional list system of proportional representation to be used for EEC elections is tabled by Mr Willey (Sunderland, North, Lab.), vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party; Mr du Cann (Tamerton, C), chairman of the Conservative backbenchers' 1972 Committee; Mr Rippon (Hexham, C), leader of the Conservative group at the European Parliament; Mr Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab.), chairman of the Labour group at a five-year rolling budget, but would find it difficult if not impossible to do so if annual or even biennial increases became the norm." At anything less than two years, a dangerous short period, there was cause for alarm.

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Foreign Office staff deny bias for 'establishment'

By a Staff Reporter

A spirited tribute to the new classlessness said to be prevailing in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was delivered by representatives of all levels of its staff to a committee of MPs on Tuesday night.

At the third hearing by the Commons Expenditure Committee into last summer's report by the Central Policy Review Staff (the "think tank") on Britain's overseas representation, the idea that the Foreign Office was heavily biased towards the "establishment" was criticized as "untrue, irrelevant, and a deplorable form of invective snobbery."

Representatives of the Diplomatic Service Association and the more widely based Society of Civil and Public Servants, as well as the chairman of the staff side of the department, joined the protest at the Foreign Office's request that the Foreign Office needed to recruit from a wider social and educational background.

Mr Mark Heath, the staff side chairman, told the defence and external affairs subcommittee of the expenditure committee that the review staff had painted a misleading picture on the point.

The composition of the Diplomatic Service had changed in recent years and would continue to change, he said. Recruitment was wide open. The social background of staff no longer mattered, and demand may arise.

Two solicitors ordered to be struck off roll

By a Staff Reporter

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No Arts Council action on hopes for PLR scheme

By Our Arts Reporter

The Arts Council decided yesterday to defer consideration of a non-statutory public lending right scheme. Authors will therefore have to rely on a private member's Bill sponsored by Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, but there is little chance of it being enacted this session.

Authors groups have already expressed support for a statutory scheme because of the long delays already incurred. But the Society of Authors, has said such a scheme would be highly vulnerable, since it could be abolished in time of stringency.

The Arts Council explained yesterday that it could not consider a large new commitment before it knew the size of its grants in aid for next year.

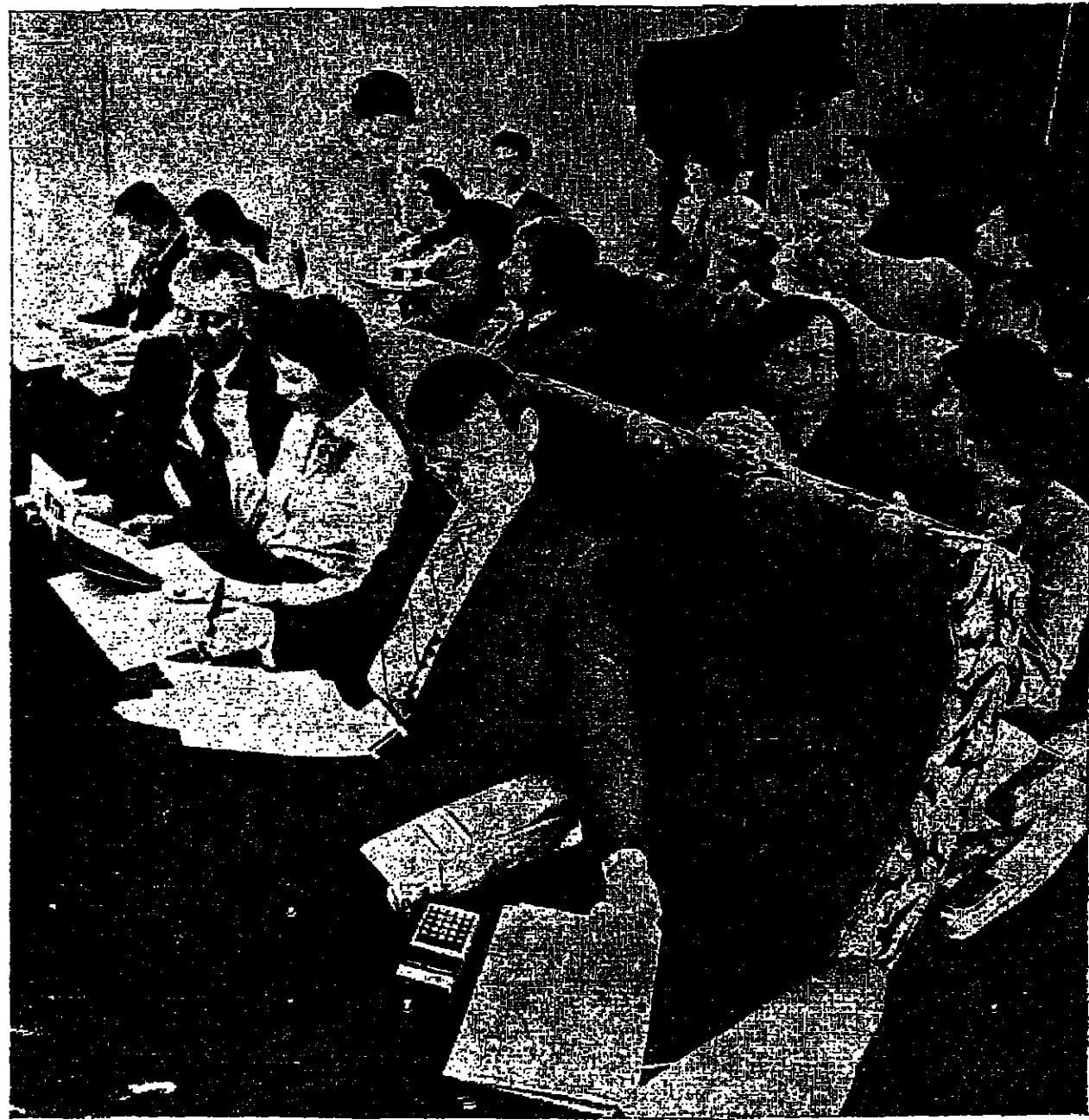
Two trawlers detained

Two Spanish trawlers were escorted into Milford Haven last night after being detained in the Bristol Channel by the frigate Diomedea, under suspicion of fishing inside British waters without the necessary licence.

No potato shortage

Enough potatoes have been harvested in Britain to meet demand until the spring, the Potatoes Marketing Board said yesterday.

Look what Thai has for you: Our new Business Class with full value for full fare.



When you fly with Thai's brand new DC-10's at full economy fare you will now have access to our new Business Class. We've created this extra Class to ensure that you have a smooth ride over the continents to the Far East and Australia with a chance to work or relax as you please. In complete comfort. With plenty of room. Smooth as silk.

Here are some details: At the airport you will check in at the first class counter and enjoy the use of first class executive lounges where available in transit halls. On board you

will be welcomed in our Business Class with 28 seats, usually booked for a maximum of 21 passengers, all seats fully reclineable and only 8-across. A non-smoker section. A stand-up bar with serve-yourself drinks. First class food and wine. A special menu-card. Free loan of calculators, dictation and office equipment. Blankets and large pillows for all, special improved earphones for your inflight entertainment, and a cabin attendant constantly on duty.

You may choose your favourite reading among international and national

magazines and newspapers and we even have a businessman's library.

When you arrive at your destination, special Business Class tags on your luggage will ensure fast handling. All these "extras" and many more, not mentioned, will help you arrive fit and rested and well prepared for your assignment. Our Business Class is a new concept in intercontinental flying.

Smooth as silk

هكذا ان الاصل

HOME NEWS

Schoolchildren 'put on drugs because class behaviour does not fit'

By Mark Vaughan, of The Times Educational Supplement

Tens of thousands of children are being put on long-term programmes of drug therapy simply because their behaviour does not fit in with the requirements of their schools, according to an article in this week's issue of *New Society*.

Mr Steven Box, lecturer in sociology at Kent University, Canterbury, says there is a "scandalous silence" surrounding such "reliance on school children". The reason for giving drugs to more and more children to control their behaviour is that they are diagnosed as "hyperactive", he adds.

However, he maintains there has so far been a complete failure by the medical world, or education authorities, to prove that hyperactivity is a genuine disease.

Last night the Department of Health and Social Security commented: "We are not aware of any abuse or wrongful prescribing of drugs in the way the article suggests is happening. 'Hyperactive' is not a term that has any medical use."

"School medical doctors do not prescribe drugs. They can be prescribed only by a general practitioner, hospital or in the case of mental health, a psychiatrist."

In his article Mr Box says treatment given to schoolchildren includes individual psychotherapy, behaviour therapy, and in some cases brain surgery. But by far the most favoured method of treatment is drug therapy.

He says there is a whole industry in America based on "drugging children" to be submissive, with between 500,000 and a million children diagnosed as hyperactive. He argues that there are worrying signs that the same approach is being used in British classrooms.

Although hyperactivity is "far less well documented here than in America, there is, he maintains, an epidemic of psychiatric disorders among schoolchildren taking place, on a pattern similar to that in the United States, though on a much smaller scale."

Mr Box notes that the Department of Education and Science says that hyperactivity is an important symptom of maladjustment. In 1950, he says, 537 full-time teachers were classified as maladjusted. By 1970 the total was more than 5,000, and two years ago was nearly 14,000.

The typical procedures for diagnosing hyperactivity are described by Mr Box as, "because they have nothing to do with disease, but everything to do with deviance."

Hyperactivity "violates important school norms about paying attention to teacher, obeying teacher, and being responsive to teacher's wishes, instructions or commands; not interfering with other children; not answering teacher back or threatening or actually assaulting teacher; not mistreating or damaging school property; being orderly and disciplined."

"American schools, particularly in poor Negro ghettos, and English schools in urban slums and ethnically mixed areas, are being transformed into places where children attend educational courses to places where they receive courses in medical treatment."

Mr Box says the main drugs being administered to hyperactive schoolchildren are stimulants such as methylphenidate, dexamphetamine and magnesium pemoline. Only in a minority of cases are non-stimulants being given.

Since there is no physical sign of disease, he says, the favourite procedure is to look at a child's behaviour, in the classroom, in group participation and attitude toward authority. "Hyperactive" classroom behaviour includes, according to Mr Box, fidgeting, humming, making odd noises, or being easily frustrated.

He argues that during high unemployment, many schoolchildren, particularly lower-class and ethnically underprivileged boys, "naturally cause problems."

The frustration and humiliation they experience show in delinquency, truancy, disobedience and other behaviour that upsets figures of authority, including parents and especially teachers. Drugs are then administered to damp and confuse the child's scarcely heard protests.

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New powers from today on violence by squatters

Important provisions of the Criminal Law Act 1977, take effect from today, including new powers over squatting and reforms of the fence of conspiracy.

Part 1 of the Act means that the offence of conspiracy is restricted to agreements to commit criminal offences, and the penalty will be more closely linked to the penalty for the completed offence.

Part II replaces common law on such areas as forcible entry and detainer, where someone has entered peacefully but maintains possession by force. Five specific offences are created, including using or threatening violence to secure entry where another person is present, and failing to leave when required to do so by a displaced resident or protected intending occupier.

The Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law said that this legal change might threaten people taking part in work-in or sit-ins, and a national scheme is being organized to keep a watch on the working of the new law.

Other provisions include extending the scope of the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, which means that the police can now deal with blue films used on film above 16mm in ordinary cinemas. In future members of the public will be unable to bring private prosecutions and the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be required before a prosecution can be taken.

In driving cases, the concept of "dangerous" driving or cycling is removed from the Road Traffic Act, 1972.

Cheshire County Council yesterday said that it would be unrealistic to expect the council to be able to hold to the average.

The county believed it would lose £2.5m grant for next year, the fifth year in which the non-metropolitan counties have had the overall grant reduced, although preliminary figures show that Cheshire is likely to lose much less in grant than other counties.

At the same time as the Government published the rate-support grant order, explaining the announcement of November 18 by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, the AMA held a seminar in London to discuss the matter.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman, congratulated Mr Shore for adopting the distribution formula they wanted, as a way to favour the inner cities and areas with high levels of urban difficulties.

But he added: "A few authorities with urban deprivation problems did not benefit. We do not yet know why these anomalies occurred and we intend to discover how they happened."



The Prince of Wales with four cartoons of himself by Barry Fantoni at the London Press Club's exhibition in aid of the jubilee appeal.

Inquiry into rate-support grant

By Christopher Warman Local Government Correspondent

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has ordered an inquiry into the distribution of next year's government rate-support grant to find out why some authorities suffering from urban deprivation have failed to benefit.

Already, local authorities particularly in county areas have said that it will be difficult to keep rate rises to the 10 per cent national average forecast by the Government.

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Welsh language is in decline, report says

From Tim Jones Cardiff

The Welsh language is dying. That is the inescapable conclusion of a report into Welsh social trends published today by the Welsh Office. It seems that, after holding fast against armed invasion and bygone discriminatory legislation, the language is succumbing to the mass media and English immigration. Where the edict that prevented schoolchildren from speaking their native tongue failed, *Kojac* and *Rock Follies*, it seems, are succeeding.

The report shows that the number of people who speak Welsh has declined by almost 40 per cent over the 50 years 1921-71. Now the language is at the crossroads, for only a fifth of the principalities' 2,765,000 were able to speak Welsh in 1971.

The great rural counties of Gwynedd and Dyfed, which span the whole of west Wales, remain a stronghold of the language, but the situation is not encouraging. Evidence shows that the apparent strength of the language in those areas is partly due to the outward migration of the young leaving behind a high proportion of older Welsh-speaking people.

Within Wales the report shows there were two main flows of movement before the 1971 census. The first was a net flow of population from Gwynedd to Clywd, and the second was within industrial South Wales.

South Glamorgan lost population to Mid Glamorgan and to a lesser extent to Gwent. Overall Mid Glamorgan gained population from the other Welsh counties.

In Clywd the gain from Gwynedd was small compared with large inflows from England, particularly from the North, and to a lesser extent from West Midlands. The

net loss from Gwynedd to the rest of Wales was more than outweighed by a net gain from England.

Dyfed also lost population to Wales and other parts of Britain and it is that trend of young people migrating from the Welsh-speaking areas, while English people move in to retire or set up small family businesses or merely to enjoy a better quality of unemployment, that disturbs people who are fighting for the language.

Mr Dafydd Williams, general secretary of *Plaid Cymru*, said: "Statistically there is no doubt that the Welsh language is declining. Urgent action is now needed by central government schools and commercial enterprises. Wales expects the Government to keep its promise by providing a fourth television channel, to give a continuous Welsh language service."

Most Welsh watchers concede that the dominance of the English media, particularly in television, and the lack of Welsh language daily newspaper contribute greatly to the decline of the language.

In other sections the report shows that a lower proportion of the population have a level or equivalent in Wales than elsewhere in Britain. Household size is greater in Wales than in Britain, but the number of earners to a household is lower.

While average household income and expenditure have increased rapidly over the past few years, the Welsh salary levels remain less than 90 per cent of the United Kingdom figure.

The proportion of income derived from wages and salaries is lower in Wales, but the proportion received from social security benefits is substantially higher.

Welsh Social Trends (Stationery Office, Cardiff, 55.30).

New help for the homeless becomes effective today

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

All homeless people are entitled to some help from their housing authorities under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force in England and Wales today. But only those who fall within priority groups and who have not made themselves homeless will be entitled to permanent accommodation.

The new Act recognizes that homelessness is so widespread that it can no longer be treated as an emergency to be met by temporary accommodation, but is a basic housing matter demanding that the people affected should be rehoused permanently. The main purpose is to make housing authorities, which have pools of accommodation available, help homeless people instead of leaving it to social service authorities to provide temporary accommodation for those in urgent need.

The priority groups include families with dependent children, pregnant women, people vulnerable because of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability and those homeless because of an emergency such as fire, flood or other disaster. The main groups excluded are the single homeless and childless couples, but housing authorities must nevertheless help them to find their own accommodation.

Both hostels, formerly hotels, were acquired by the city council when it had more than 50 families in bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

The hostels, in Didsbury and Chorlton-cum-Hardy, with an existing hostel at Moorbank, provide temporary accommodation for 40 homeless families. The average length of stay is expected to be between three and four weeks. Families will then move to permanent homes provided by the city housing department or to private accommodation arranged by themselves.

Manchester claimed yesterday that the opening today of two hostels makes the city the first big housing authority in Britain to eliminate hotel bed-and-breakfast accommodation for homeless families and the first to respond to the new Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

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More than half au pair girls 'are overworked'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A survey showing that well over half the au pair girls in Britain are overworked by their host families has been presented to the Home Office as part of a new campaign to secure more protection for foreign girls.

The survey, one of the most comprehensive undertaken covering 1,024 girls throughout the country, was designed by London University Computing Services to provide comparisons with the advice contained in the Home Office booklet, *Au Pair in Britain*.

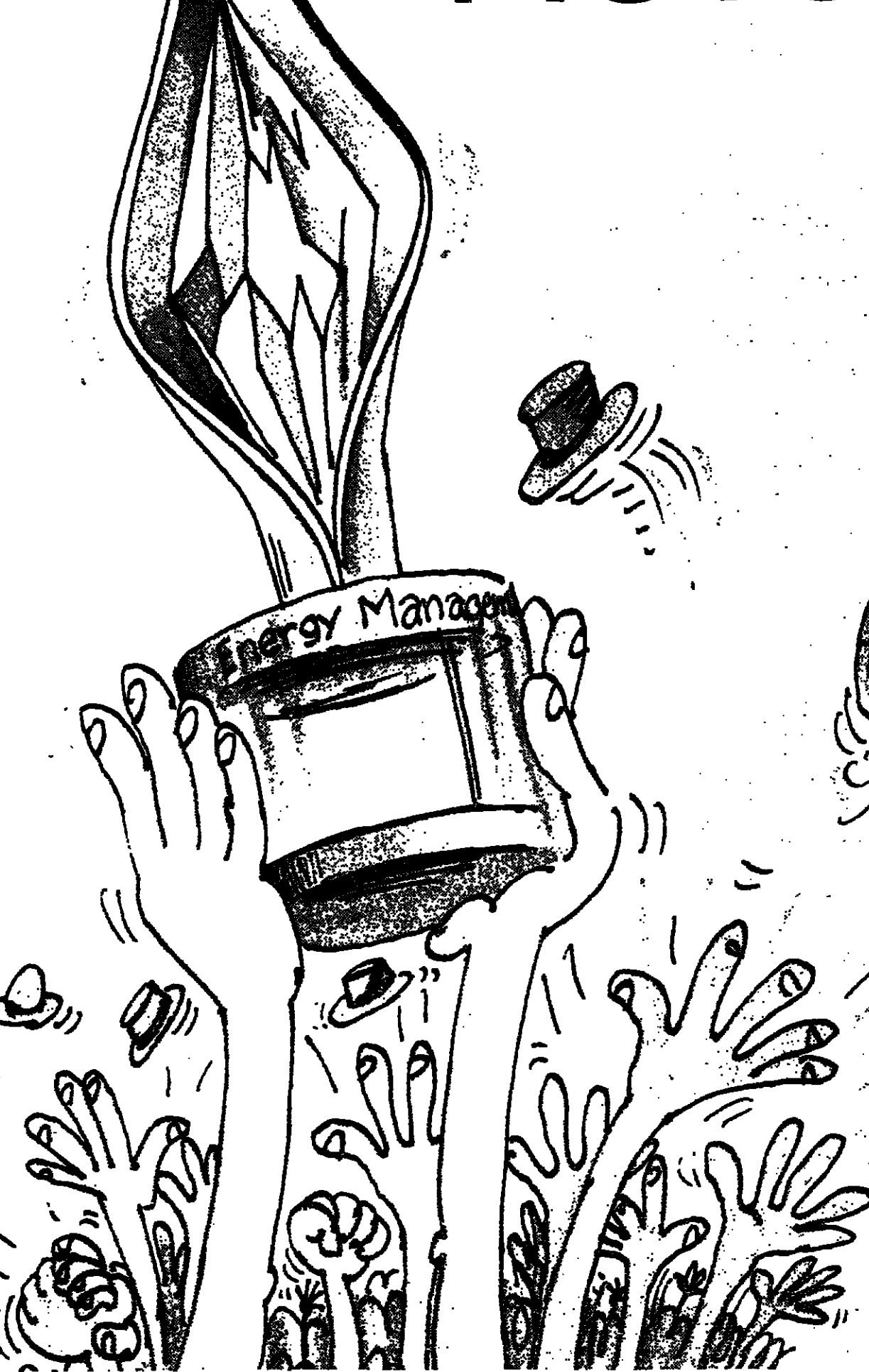
According to the survey, 60 per cent of the girls work more than the 30 hours a week recommended by the Home Office, 12 per cent work more than 30 hours and 67 per cent did not receive a copy of the official booklet, as they were summoned to, when they entered Britain.

Of those questioned, 29 per cent changed their host families after their arrival. The main reasons included overwork, lack of free time and time to study, and unsatisfactory living conditions. Two thirds of those who work more than 30 hours receive less than 29 pounds net per month.

Dom Placid Mevink, chairman of International Youth Welfare, which sponsored the questionnaire, said yesterday that it provided positive evidence of the very unsatisfactory position of au pair girls in Britain.

A large number of girls are exploited and used as cheap domestic labour", he said. International Youth Welfare was set up to protect the interests of overseas students in Britain and has more than fifty affiliated organizations.

CONGRATULATIONS VAUXHALL MOTORS!



Vauxhall Motors of Ellesmere Port have made enormous strides in fuel conservation.

As major industrial consumers of gas, they have significantly improved the efficiency of their gas-using plant and achieved dramatic fuel savings.

This year, on their heat treatment furnaces alone they have reduced fuel consumption by 56%—from 115,000 to 50,500 therms per year, and greatly reduced maintenance and replacement costs by changing to a new type of burner. When present work has been completed there will be a total saving throughout the plant of 600,000 therms annually.

These savings are the outcome of close co-operation between Vauxhall and the North West Gas Technical Consultancy Service. And it's made them this year's Gas Energy Management Award winners.

The G.E.M. Award is made every year by British Gas to the company and Regional Technical Consultancy team who, working together, show the most successful increase in gas-using efficiency. There were seventeen other finalists this year, and all won substantial prizes of higher plant efficiency and fuel saving.

If you're interested in running your plant more efficiently, or are looking for expert advice about installing new plant, or changing fuels, call the Technical Consultancy Service of your Gas Region or send in the coupon below. A preliminary chat is quite free. It could save you a lot of money.

And—who knows!—win you the G.E.M. Award next year.

To: British Gas Dept. 371, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT.
I would like to know more about how gas can help my business ☐
Also I would like to learn about the British Gas School of Fuel Management ☐ (Please tick as appropriate)

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Company
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Tel.

BRITISH GAS

WEST EUROPE

Pay rise for French on eve of strike day

From Ian Murray Paris, Nov 30

The powerful left-wing trade unions are calling on their members tomorrow for the second national strike this year, in protest against the "austerity" policies of M. Barre, the Prime Minister.

While the union leaders were finalising their plans the Cabinet met to agree measures to help pensioners, the lower paid and the civil service, and to prepare the way for a programme which will ensure that everyone can have a holiday.

The strike was called four weeks ago by the Communist CGT, the Socialist CFDT and the militant teachers' union, FEN, after M. Barre introduced a series of measures, which the unions claimed were inadequate, to hold down prices. The CGT and CFDT leaders have been meeting regularly since the previous national strike on May 24 to consider continuing the protest.

The May strike brought out an estimated 10 million workers and caused widespread stoppages in public services and heavy industry, where the left-wing unions are best organized. Tomorrow's strike, unlike the one in May, does not have the support of the moderate Force Ouvrière, so it is unlikely to be as widely observed.

Nevertheless, postal services are likely to be disrupted and consumers have been warned that there will be a 30 per cent reduction in electric power and that gas pressures will be reduced. Primary schools will be open but without teachers and secondary school courses will be badly affected.

The Paris transport authority expects to be able to run a 60 per cent service, except when there are power cuts. Air France expects only slight alterations to timetables, but the railways are likely to be able to run only 40 per cent of their service.

The stock market is unlikely to function normally. Newspapers will not appear and the press agencies closed at noon today. National theatres like the Opéra, Comédie Française and the Odéon have had to cancel productions and some television programmes may be altered.

M. Barre said in a newspaper interview yesterday that the strike was organized by unions "which have always sought to politicise problems". Nevertheless, he felt that this year France had had a very quiet year in industrial relations.

President Giscard d'Estaing appears on television this evening to explain the latest round of social measures.

The one affecting most people is the agreed increase in the level of the basic wage which, with effect from tomorrow, has increased to 10.05 per cent an hour or 1,742 francs (£200) a month. This represents an increase of about 55.25 a month over the present rate, which was last raised at the beginning of October.

These increases, which are linked to the cost of living index, have more than compensated for inflation over the past year. The basic minimum wage has gone up by 12.4 per cent over the past year compared with a 9.5 per cent increase in the index, giving a 2.6 per cent increase in buying power.

Another important social measure is the increase in the old age pension to 11,000 francs (£1,264) a year. This represents a 10 per cent increase and means that pensions have more than doubled from the 5,200 francs level at the start of 1974. Nevertheless, 11,000 francs is still a pitifully low income.

Civil servants are also to benefit from today's measures. They will receive a pay increase of about 2.5 per cent, although the means test which has been increasing power has scarcely risen at all over the year.

The measures to help people have holidays are aimed principally at the four million who say they cannot afford to take the break they need each year.

Nuclear power approved by WEU Assembly

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Nov 30

The Assembly of the Western European Union today approved the construction of multi-national nuclear generators thus agreeing with the report drawn up by Mr Toby Jessel, Conservative MP, who is rapporteur to the union's scientific commission.

The motion stated that nuclear energy was a reality of international life and would provide a high proportion of world electricity by the end of the century.

At the same time it underlined the need to avoid any measures that would undermine the non-proliferation treaty, which guaranteed all countries access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

International measures designed to protect nuclear installations against attack or capture were also called for. Many speakers expressed the fear that fissile materials could be seized by terrorists.

Arson suspect held

Helsinki, Nov 30.—Police are holding a man suspected of starting fires last weekend which caused extensive damage to a printing works here which produces two extreme left-wing newspapers.

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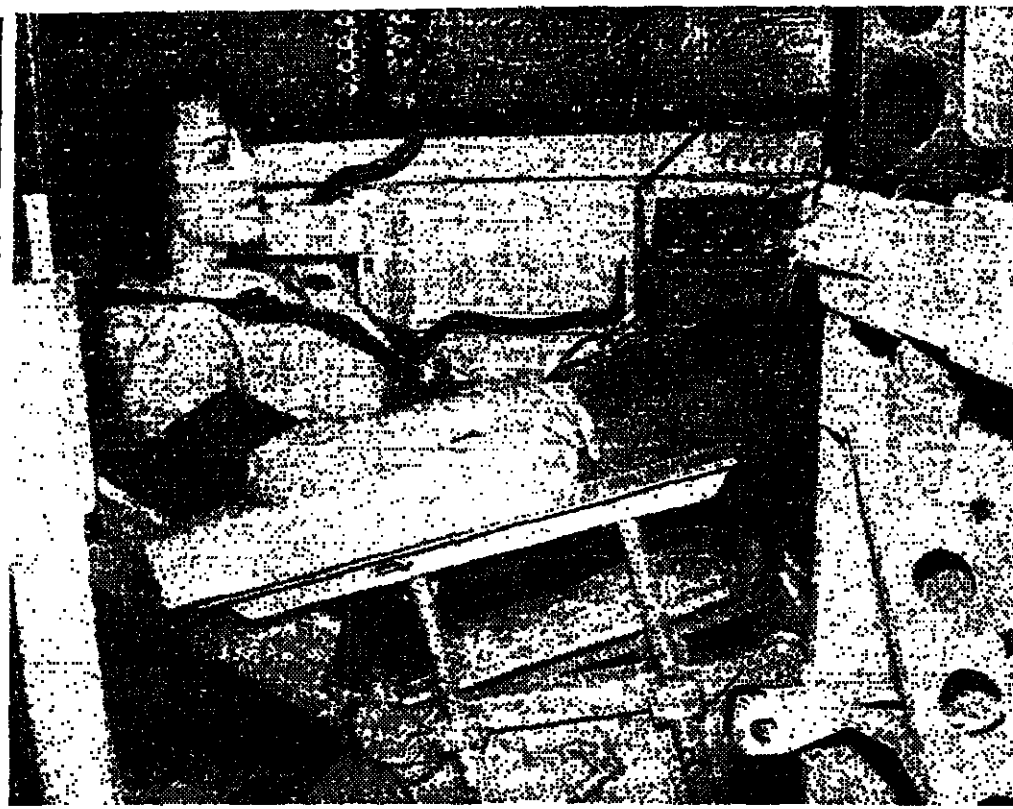
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Preparing for space mission: Mme Anny Chantal Levasseur-Regourd, a French candidate for the American Spacelab mission in 1980, preparing for tests at Farnborough yesterday on the centrifuge, a machine which simulates the enormous stresses on the human body during launching and reentry of spacecraft. Altogether five European scientists will be offered to the Americans as astronauts on the project. At present the short-list has been reduced to 11 men and one woman, whose suitability is being evaluated in various countries. Psychological tests are being made in West Germany, clinical and physical evaluations in France and the Netherlands, and testing in simulated space conditions in Germany and Britain.

Kappler affair still casts shadow on Schmidt-Andreotti meeting

From Peter Nichols Rome, Nov 30

Verona is once again cast for the scene of the meeting of Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and the Italian Prime Minister, Indro Montanelli, planned for August and postponed as a result of the Kappler affair.

By another coincidence, the Turin newspaper La Stampa printed today some of the recent writings by Signor Carlo Casalegno, its deputy editor, which have been shot by left-wing terrorists. One of the reprinted articles is entitled: Achtung Germania and surveys the fears of a swing in West Germany towards authoritarianism as a result of the kidnapping of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer, the German industrialist, and the horror felt at the effects of German terrorism.

Brighter signs are, however, detected in this dark atmosphere which settled over the city of Verona. Schmidt's visit to the city, since his escape from the destruction of the Italian press today, reflects on the new life of Herr Kappler and his wife (who arranged his escape) at Sofia where he is "protected like a minister".

Difficulties are said to have been placed in the way of interrogation by an examining judge on the ground of health though, since his escape Herr Kappler's health is said to have improved notably.

Frau Kappler has stated as much in a recent interview published by the Florence newspaper, La Nazione. Herr Kappler was in the Rome hospital because he was said to be dying of cancer.

The Milan Corriere della Sera, says today that the tone of West German reports on the Kappler's new life is "almost too optimistic". They are said to be leaving the wife's flat and buying "a villa with park attached in the centre of Soltau". The money would be coming, it is ironically suggested, from the Red Cross.

Nine injured as police quell Spanish prison riot

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Nov 30

A riot at a maximum security prison near Madrid resulted in the destruction of 95 per cent of the cells and indirectly led to the death of a policeman, it was learnt here today.

The trouble began at the Ocaña prison at about 3.30 pm yesterday. A number of prisoners transferred there for having taken part in riots in other prisons wrecked the furniture in their cells, set material fires and other combustible material, and broke out of their cells, according to an official of the Ministry of Justice.

About 150 prisoners held out against police for three hours. Hundreds of riot police and a detachment of the civil guard were called in to quell the riot, as firemen fought the fire.

Some of the prisoners reached the roof of one of the prison buildings and threw tiles down on to the police. The police replied with rubber bullets and smoke bombs. Nine people were injured including three policemen.

As the commander of the civil guard detachment drove to the scene in rain, his car skidded and crashed, killing the driver and injuring the commander and another officer.

Among the debris banners were found reading, "Capo", the name of a prisoners' organization which calls for amnesty for common criminals as well as political prisoners. Copel is supported by the Spanish Communist Party.

Professor Maser today gave his first press conference here since the disclosure in The Sunday Times two months ago that he had discovered and authenticated a son of Hitler.

M. Loret whom Professor Maser is convinced is Hitler's son, was questioned by the German security police in occupied Paris in 1940 and asked whether his father had been a German soldier stationed in France in the First World War.

He heard the first from his mother, Charlotte Lore, after the Second World War. She took to drink under the strain of repeated security police and later Gestapo questioning, during which she denied knowing the boy who was with her when she died inherited her sparse possessions, including her handbag. Only when he read the recent news about M. Loret, now a twice married father of nine children, did he look closely at what was in the bag.

Professor Maser now has photographs of Hitler taken during the First World War which he believes Hitler sent to his mistress. He still has to authenticate whether the writing on the back of the photograph is Hitler's, and until then is not willing to say what the text is.

Professor Maser said that M. Loret contacted him of his own accord in February last year, and that he twice refused to continue talking to him before taking him seriously because he did not believe his claim.

Only when M. Loret had answered 150 questions, which answers could only be known by someone directly involved in the relationship with 100 per cent accuracy, did the professor realize he had found the man he was looking for.

Asked by a Pravda correspondent today whether the revelation that Hitler had a son was an encouragement for neo-Nazism, Professor Maser said he was convinced that the effect would be the opposite.

"The fact that the great propagator of racial purity had a son by a Frenchwoman, and left both her and the child destitute, is not likely to improve his image."

"Nor is the fact that he appears to have been prepared to have them killed if necessary. It also destroys the myth that after he was injured in 1917 he volunteered again immediately because he wanted to serve his country. He just wanted to get back to his French mistress."

Muslim fanatics sentenced to death in Cairo

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Nov 30

Five people, including the leader of a Muslim extremist group, were sentenced to death today by a military tribunal, which found them guilty of kidnapping and killing a former Cabinet minister.

The condemned to death were Shukri Mustafa, the leader of the Society of Repentance and Retreat, his lieutenant, Turk Abdul Alim, a former police officer, and three other prominent members.

Fifty-four members of the sect were tried. They were accused of kidnapping and killing Dr. Muhammad Husayn, a former Minister of Muslim Religious Endowments, plotting to overthrow President Sadat's Government by force, planting explosives at public places and communicating with foreign powers.

Twelve were given life sentences with hard labour, six were sentenced to 10 years' hard labour, three to five years, eight to three years.

US dockers go back with demands met

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Nov 30

Dockers at most of the east coast ports of the United States went back to work today for the first time in two months. After long and tough bargaining, agreement was reached on a formula to end the strike.

Most goods go through American ports in containers, which are normally loaded into ships by hand. This reduces the number of jobs for dockers. They were striking for higher pay to compensate for this, as well as a guaranteed minimum income and better working conditions. They have won most of their demands.

Hourly rates have been increased from \$8 (£4.50) to \$10.40 and each dockworker will receive a minimum annual wage of \$16,640. The settlement, which will last for three years, also allows for higher payments by employers into pension and welfare funds.

Horses die in fire

Tamworth, New South Wales, Nov 30.—Twelve trotting horses were burnt to death when fire broke out in their locked stables here.

Hopes rise for opening of Kenya-Tanzania border

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Nov 30

Kenyan and Kenyan administrative officials from areas along both sides of their 500-mile border met in Kisumu, western Kenya, today for discussion of common problems. The meeting raised hopes that the border may soon be reopened.

It was closed by Tanzania in February when Tanzania accused Kenya of bringing about the financial collapse of East African Airways, jointly owned by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. With the collapse of the East African Community in July the border has remained closed from Tanzania's side.

Kenya retaliated a month ago by barring international airlines from flying between the two countries (Kenyan and Tanzanian aircraft were already barred from flying over the border) so that travellers must now fly to another country, and then return, if they wish to visit the neighbouring country.

Hopes have now risen for a settlement of this quarrel, however. Vice-President Arap Moi, of Kenya, and Mr Peter Kenyatta, an assistant foreign minister and a son of the late President Kenyatta, flew to Zanzibar yesterday for talks with Sheikh Aboud Jumbe, the Tanzanian Vice-President, and Tanzanian ministers and officials. This was the first meeting of leaders of the two Governments since the border closure.

They spent two hours discussing relations between the two countries, in what was said to be a cordial atmosphere. They agreed to set up a committee of officials to identify ways of improving relations with the aim of submitting a report to the two presidents.

Kenya's trade with Tanzania and with countries like Zambia and Malawi has been badly hit by the border closure. Tanzania's aim was to punish Kenya economically for what Tanzania alleged was Kenya's policy of making the East African Community unworkable.

Kenya denies working for the collapse of the Community, and accuses Tanzania of having tried to dominate Community policies.

Hitler 'was willing to kill ex-mistress and son'

From Sue Margerman Vienna, Nov 30

Hitler was willing in 1940 to have his former mistress and his illegitimate son M. Jean Loret, then aged 22, murdered if they posed a threat to his image. This is one conclusion reached by Professor Werner Maser, the historian and internationally recognized authority on Hitler.

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M. Loret whom Professor Maser is convinced is Hitler's son, was questioned by the German security police in occupied Paris in 1940 and asked whether his father had been a German soldier stationed in France in the First World War.

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OVERSEAS

Syrian minister compares Sadat peace trip to Jerusalem with Pétain's surrender to Hitler

From Edward Mortimer Damascus, Nov 30

President Sadat was today compared to Marshal Pétain, head of the Vichy regime in Nazi-occupied France, by Mr Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Information Minister.

Mr Iskander, a close associate of President Assad of Syria, claimed in an interview with The Times that Pétain had used the same words to justify his meeting Hitler on occupied French soil and signing a treaty with him as Mr Sadat has used to justify his visit to Israel.

He recalled that General de Gaulle had denounced Pétain's meeting with Hitler as an insult to the French nation, and de Gaulle has remained the nation's hero until now, while Pétain in the eyes of all French people is a traitor.

It may be argued that Mr Sadat did not accept Israeli occupation, but went to Jerusalem to secure Israeli withdrawal. Mr Iskander did not agree. First, he said, Mr Sadat had "accepted ending the state of war before withdrawal", and he had "admitted that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel"; he was the first president in the world who admitted that.

"Negotiations", Mr Iskander explained, "must be held among equal parties. The visit of President Sadat has changed the balance of power in favour of Israel, and the Israeli Government will now demand from us the same as President Sadat accepted. In other words, Sadat and Begin want the other Arabs to come to Geneva to accept what President Sadat accepted before."

This means that the pressure of the United States, instead of being exerted on the Israeli Government to withdraw from the occupied territories, will be exerted against the other Arabs to come round to this Israeli attitude. "Confront the danger that President Assad was planning to go to Tripoli tomorrow for the summit conference of hard line Arab powers called by Colonel Gaddafi. But it was clear that he did not intend to be stand out into a 'rejectionist' line. In his press conference on Monday he emphasized that the object of the Tripoli summit was not to isolate one person or one regime, but that Mr Sadat was still in his eyes 'President of the Arab Republic of Egypt'; and that it was wrong to speak of a 'diverse' between Egypt and Syria. There were 'stony differences of viewpoint between us about the methods of achieving peace', he said.

One of the main talking-points during the past few days has been whether Iraq would agree to drop its campaign against the Syrian regime and attend the Tripoli summit and attend the Mr Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

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Australian sex report may become election issue

Canberra, Nov 30.—An official inquiry commission report calling for the legalisation of certain cases of incest, abortion on demand and the inclusion of homosexuality in sex education caused an uproar in Australia today.

The recommendations threatened to become an issue in the general election. A minister denounced the Labour Opposition for launching the commission when it was in power in 1974. Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour leader, countered with an allegation that Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, had deliberately leaked the report.

The report itself was officially released here tonight after copies had circulated among civil servants in Canberra and had been published in the press.

The Commission's recommendations include: Incest should no longer be an offence in certain circumstances, for example between a mother and her son over 17 years of age; sex education in schools should include homosexuality, and schools, churches and the media should join in a campaign to change public attitudes towards homosexuals; abortion on demand with certain qualifications; and lowering the age of consent to 15, and 17 in cases involving the person's schoolteacher.

It also proposes that brothel-keeping should no longer be an offence, that no one should be convicted of statutory rape on young people aged between 13 and 15 if the other person is less than five years older, and that the marriageable age should be 16.

Spokesmen for the Council of Civil Liberties and the Women's Electoral Lobby praised the report but several church leaders denounced it, although one of the commission members was Dr Felix Arnott, the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane. The two other members were both women.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 15

Politician with a cool, fresh mind who sounds like an aspiring Ph.D in sociology

Governor Brown lives up to his image

By David Spamer Diplomatic Correspondent

First of all an extremely pretty girl announced that Mr Jerry Brown, the Governor of California, had only 25 minutes, and then Mr Brown went to the telephone and took questions for 25 minutes.

Short as his appearance was, he did not disappoint the British press. A slim, dark-skinned figure, lightly grey at the temples, he lived up to his image as a cool, fresh mind on the political scene.

Who else would have come to London especially to speak at the memorial service for E. E. Schattschneider, the author of Small is Beautiful?

It is a book which expresses very nearly the simple, low-cost, unnumbered approach to politics of the Governor, though he regards Schattschneider's work as a starting point, not a complete philosophy.

"It is not my view that bigness in itself is bad. Rather it's size which counts, and others have to be measured and considered", the Governor was quick to explain. "It's a matter of focus."

Sounding very much like an aspiring Ph.D in sociology, he analysed the respective merits of large and small-scale technology, land-use, up with the happy practical example that in democratic societies and the people they serve.

Consequently, the Governor does not do much entertaining. "I haven't found any people who do anything. If people want to meet with me, they have a cup of coffee. Or sometimes it could be cold cuts and cider." Last night, however, the Governor was dining at the home of Prince Charles, whom he met when the Prince was in California.

He queued up for his seat on a Laker flight to the Atlantic, because he was paying for himself. Asked if he would ever rule out travelling on Concorde, he weighed his reply carefully. "I would have to be very strongly necessary. On the whole, he believes that modern communications will prove more and more a substitute for transport."

Yet if all this seems terribly earnest, one must report that Mr Brown managed to say it all with considerable humour. Was he going to be the next President of the United States? He was asked. "I have even said whether I'm going to run again for Governor or not. My general thought is that the future will take care of itself. I have plenty of work to do. I take each step as it comes along."

Requiem Mass, page 16

Plea to end irresponsible reporting of terrorism

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Nov 30

In an ambitious move designed to prevent "irresponsible" journalists from endangering the lives of the police and victims during kidnappings and terrorist attacks, the Washington police want to work out a mutually acceptable code of practice for the news media in the capital.

Mr Maurice Cullinane, chief of the District of Columbia police force, called a press conference here this week to make his views public. Predictably, in a country where "publish and be damned" ethics of journalism tend to prevail, less than 20 journalists from a total of Washington press corps of several hundred were sufficiently interested to attend.

This general lack of interest may have been a mistake, since Mr Cullinane made it clear that if the news media do not agree to a code of conduct imposed upon them, he was unable to explain, however, how this would be enforced. The press and the police must co-operate in the constitution. Presumably, the most he could do would be to withdraw all cooperation from the press during terrorist attacks, but this would be a very serious step.

Nevertheless, he clearly wanted to avoid any such confrontation and the gist of his message to the media was that the public, the press and the police must co-operate together to hammer out acceptable guidelines. In his view, these should include restraints on the use of camera close-ups of buildings occupied by terrorists, the crance of speculation and rumours about what might be happening and an agreement not to telephone terrorists during a siege.

Even more controversially, he would like reporters to minimise details of how a siege started (so as not to provide too much guidance to

OVERSEAS

Abortion debate holds up pay for 240,000 US government staff

From David Cohen
Washington, Nov 30

The 240,000 employees of the Department of Labour and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are waiting anxiously for a solution to a long-running dispute in Congress which could block their pay from being raised tonight.

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have been arguing for several months over the delicate issue of federally-funded abortions for women with low incomes. The dispute is holding up final approval of a \$60,000 (about £33,000) pay increase for the two departments. This should have been cleared by the end of September, but the deadline has been extended twice to keep the cheques flowing. There is now strong resistance to yet another delay.

Numerous attempts have been made to find a compromise between the exceptionally hard line on abortion adopted by the House and the slightly more liberal posture of the Senate.

With the combined backing of President Carter and the Supreme Court, who feel that the Federal Government should not be obliged to finance abortions for the poor, the House wants to limit help to those women whose life would be endangered by giving birth and to victims of rape and incest, under certain strict conditions.

The Senate would also like to extend federal funds to cases where pregnancy would cause "severe and long-lasting physical health damage". It also advocates less restrictive conditions for rape and incest victims.

When both Houses of Congress met for the second time this month yesterday to try to resolve their differences, anti-abortion members of the House of Representatives were once again adamant in their refusal to accept any compromise along the lines by the Senate.

Mr Henry Hyde, a Republican from Illinois who sponsored the original House version of the Bill, has claimed all along that any changes would provide gaping loopholes.

Special exceptions for rape and incest victims invited "massive fraud", he said, while any exceptions for severe and long-lasting health "trades a human life for judgment about the health of a woman".

The final outcome was a 205 to 183 vote in the House last night against any compromise version. The Senate had earlier voted by a margin of 44 to 21 in favour of the latest compromise.

Throughout the long debate the Administration has resisted the temptation to bring pressure to bear on Congress to settle its differences, although it would obviously like the overall appropriations Bill to be adopted as soon as possible.

Its reluctance is probably partly due to the fact that President Carter is concentrating his efforts on other equally controversial draft legislation now before Congress, principally his unpopular energy Bill.

He has probably also wanted to avoid any new confrontation with the black community, which has strenuously attacked him for ignoring the plight of the underprivileged. Inevitably, black women, who tend to be poorer than whites, have benefited most from federally-funded abortions.

Figures show that of the country's 1,100,000 abortions performed last year, nearly a third were paid for by federal money.

The principal argument in favour of continuing to finance abortions is, of course, that poor women will otherwise be forced to seek abortions in back alleys or bear children that they can ill afford to keep. As an alternative, President Carter has promised more federal money for birth control, but this has not yet materialized.

Mr Bhutto's discredited security force disbanded

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Nov 30

The martial law authorities today disbanded the federal security force created by Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, in 1973. An Interior Ministry statement said the force had been used by Mr Bhutto as an instrument of oppression and political intimidation.

Although the federal security force was in theory under the administrative control of the Interior Ministry, it was known to have been used by Mr Bhutto and his aides to destroy political opposition.

General Zia, the chief martial law administrator, first ordered an inquiry into the federal

security force last July. An investigative committee "found that the force, set up to assist the civil administration and the police for maintaining law and order in cases of large-scale unlawful demonstrations or serious breaches of law and order, had been used contrary to its prescribed charter or duties as an instrument of oppression and political intimidation".

The committee further found that the image of the force had been irretrievably tarnished and therefore recommended its disbandment.

Most of the 25,000 members will be absorbed into other forces such as the police, but those with criminal convictions will be discharged.

Third World Report

Critical North-South balancing act

If the Third World's problems are to be solved, everyone must make an effort, Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor and chairman of the Social Democratic Party, says in a statement. Unless the imbalance between North and South was corrected "we shall go to the devil", he declares. Herr Brandt announced on Tuesday the 16 members of an independent commission, of which he is chairman, set up to find ways to close the North-South gap. Extracts from his statement, the text of which was provided by the Labour & Trades Union Press Service, follow.

The struggle for greater equality of opportunity for the weak has never been, or at all events has long since ceased to be, a task or policy to be pursued by nations in isolation. Personally, I am convinced that development policy has already assumed the proportions of a worldwide social justice struggle that will remain such for the remainder of this century.

Perhaps we Social Democrats can have a special part to play. Our attempts at getting a peace policy off the ground in one region, Europe, have taught us something of how coexistence between divergent economic orders and even political systems can be achieved.

My friends, I see our North-South policy as an element in the maintenance of peace, a third pillar in complement to the current attempts to harmonize better the conflicting interests of East and West and the efforts being made to achieve a balanced reduction of troops and weaponry in Europe and to limit the strategic arms of the two superpowers.

The matters on which the North and the South are at issue call for policies of harmonization and peace on a global scale, whose immediate goal must be to prevent a trial of strength and the senseless confrontation that would result in a world war. While pursuing these goals, we must not fall short of a catastrophe, and whose guiding method would be that this prevention shall not require any state whether of North or South the abandonment of principles and convictions by which it plots its own course.

In pursuing world economic relations on a new footing, it is no use sitting down at the drawing board and thinking up a uniform, hybrid, global sys-

tem which one then stupidly tries to impose on everyone. What we have to do is set out the rules by which all partners can cooperate to the benefit of all: this means freedom from exploitation; it means as large a measure of justice as possible; and it means proceeding on the principle that at home and elsewhere we shall not be able to achieve it without being prepared to infringe against certain taboos and slaughter some sacred cows.

Just as a national society is a chaos without rules, so an international society, towards which this society is evolving, is in its increasing interdependence inconceivable without rules in the widest sense. It will therefore be our responsibility to ensure on a global scale that the freedom of the individual, whether this individual be a nation, a group or a community, remains sufficiently great and sufficiently secure—or, indeed, can even be enjoyed for the first time.

Those who are able to make some contribution must, in addition, realize this: any state that seeks to free itself from the membership as a whole will find it hard to obtain solidarity of the others. At all events, we simply cannot allow ourselves to accept the fact that hundreds of millions of people are living lives that are such only in a primitive biological sense.

I believe, therefore, that one of the chief responsibilities of the coming years will be to decide what are the criteria and the factors which will make it possible for the multitude of individuals in our world to begin living a life in dignity. And the manner in which this is achieved must be one which increasingly allows the states in which these people live to transform aid into effective self-help and to add economic independence to their political autonomy.

Just as we are convinced that the Socialist International with its member parties must, to the extent that it has hitherto been, become a forum for world-wide social democratic cooperation on development policy, so equally are we resolved to exert our influence



A Vietnamese child walks ashore from the trawler.

Australia refuses to send back refugees

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Nov 30

Mr Andrew Peacock, the Australian Foreign Minister, today rejected the Vietnamese Government's demand for the return of 181 people on board the hijacked trawler, long Be, which arrived in Darwin yesterday. He said that genuine refugees would not be turned away.

Most of the 151 refugees and 21 crew members have been taken to a Darwin quarantine station. Three Vietnamese military guards who were overpowered by the crew are still locked up on the trawler. About 80 of the refugees, who came ashore carrying possessions in large cane baskets, are children.

As they were being allowed ashore a senior official of the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to demand the return of the trawler and all those on board.

This is the first time the Australian Government has been involved in a diplomatic row over South-East Asian refugees. Several hundred of whom have arrived here during the last few weeks, Mr Peacock said today that those who wished to return to Vietnam would be permitted to do so.

Spokesman for the Vietnamese Embassy described the seizure of the vessel as "an act of piracy". Foreign affairs officials were today trying to play down suggestions that a diplomatic incident could develop over the hijacked vessel. Mr Peacock has invited the Vietnamese Embassy's charge on Friday to discuss the matter.

'Patriotic Front must approve internal settlement'

Black rule may not end Rhodesian war, Zambian leader says

From a Correspondent
Lusaka, Nov 30

President Kaunda of Zambia says he would be prepared to support an internal settlement in Rhodesia if it met with the approval of the Patriotic Front and the African "front line" states.

In an interview Dr Kaunda added, however, that Zambia would support a guerrilla war against any black government in Rhodesia opposed by the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance.

"If we had reason to believe that this was a genuine black government, we would not (continue the war); if we had reason to believe it was not a genuine black government, we certainly would," he said. "It's the Patriotic Front's decision, not ours."

Zambia is one of the five "front line" states surrounding Rhodesia (the others are Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique and Angola), and is used as a base by guerrillas of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu wing of the Patriotic Front.

Mr Nkomo, joint leader of the front with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Rhodesian

Prime Minister, for an internal settlement not involving the front. He called the nationalist leaders who have agreed to discuss it "vultures feeding on the front's kill".

Dr Kaunda said, however, that he saw the possibility of an internal settlement as very remote.

For more than a month, Dr Kaunda has been publicly insisting that pre-independence elections, as specified by the Anglo-American settlement proposals would result in a bloody civil war. Now, after great pressure from the other "front line" states, he is apparently willing to leave the door open to the possibility of such elections. But he still derides the concept.

"To bring out elections first and independence next is like fighting for universal adult suffrage," he said. He criticised those who expect "the bitterness that has been going on for so long now" to disappear at the mere mention of the "magic-word" election.

"What is required is to give those unfortunate people time to reconcile. Once they have done that, a couple of years, three, four, then you would hold elections which would

bring out a true democratic society." It should be recognised, he added, that the Patriotic Front armed forces were led by a political unit and that political unit should be given an equal chance.

Earlier this week Mr Nkomo said he would not join a coalition with any of the nationalists now inside Rhodesia, but Dr Kaunda calls this "a public stand".

Despite the obituaries for the Anglo-American proposals being written by many of the participants in the talks, the Zambian leader believes the plan could form the basis for a final settlement, if the British are prepared to compromise.

A letter he had sent to the British Government last week contained an assurance that Zambia was not working against the proposals. But the future of the package was in the hands of the West.

"If we are not careful," he said, "even this one will go into the limbo where all other initiatives have gone."

Zambia would continue fighting for change in Rhodesia, even if Western opinion turned against the Patriotic Front.

Muzorewa warning to Mr Smith on raids

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Nov 30

A serious crisis has arisen threatening the internal settlement conference called by Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa has told Mr Smith that the recent raids into Mozambique in which 1,200 people were reported to have been killed has seriously and adversely affected the proposed talks. He sent this warning in a strongly-worded letter to Mr Smith on Tuesday, copies of which were released to journalists today.

The bishop, who leads the United African National Council, said he found the "mass-

acres not only highly upsetting but also abhorrent, shocking and tragic".

"You will know that the majority of guerrillas are only fighting for universal adult suffrage," the letter continued. "Indeed, we have publicly demanded that a 'safe return' undertaking be included as part of the mooted negotiations."

"We have demanded a climate conducive to negotiations. We have demanded a say of all executions of political prisoners. We have declared that those guerrillas fighting for universal adult suffrage may soon be able to come back home."

An explanation regarding the

rationale behind the massacres was called for.

The bishop asked for a speedy response to his letter. Sources close to the bishop said unless he received a satisfactory reply from Mr Smith he might withdraw from the planned conference.

A spokesman from the Prime Minister's office said Mr Smith had received the bishop's letter. He would be replying but did not wish to make the contents public.

Meanwhile, in a calculated display of lack of racialism within the security forces a thousand black and white troops marched through the streets of Bulawayo today.

Police Telex referred to Biko injury

From Marcel Berlins
Pretoria, Nov 30

A Telex message sent by the head of the security police in Port Elizabeth stated that an injury had been "inflicted" on Steve Biko, and gave a precise time, 7 am on September 7.

The Telex, quoted in evidence on the thirteenth day of the inquest into the Black Consciousness leader, was sent by Colonel Pieter Goosen to security headquarters in Pretoria.

Dated September 16, it also described Biko as being in a "semi-coma" on September 11 before being taken more than 700 miles in a Land Rover to the Pretoria prison hospital, where he died the following day.

The court has not finished hearing all the evidence of witnesses. It only remains for the four main counsel involved, representing Biko's family, the police, the prison doctors and the state, to make their final speeches.

Colonel Goosen, who had given evidence during the first week of the inquest, was recalled to be cross-examined about the Telex, which he had not mentioned at all in his main evidence. He said that he had thought then that the information had been conveyed telephonically.

He denied that there was anything significant in his being asked about an injury had been "inflicted" on Biko. The word, "inflicted" had been used to indicate to his head office that Biko possibly had

been injured during a scuffle with his interrogators in Port Elizabeth on September 7.

Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for Biko's family, pointed out that, while the Telex had described Biko as being in a semi-coma, Colonel Goosen had not admitted that fact either in his affidavit or in evidence. He thought that aspect had come out clearly in evidence.

He agreed that in spite of Biko's appearance of being in a semi-coma, he still thought it possible that he was shamming.

Colonel Goosen said that he could not explain where Mr James Kruger, Minister of Justice and Police, had got the information which led him to make a press statement that Biko had threatened to go on a hunger strike. He had never heard Biko make any such threat.

Warrant Officer A. Fouché, one of the squad guarding Biko on the night of September 6-7, when it has been suggested that the injuries were sustained, said that he could throw no light on the subject.

He noticed the following evening, September 7, that Biko's lip was swollen and was told that he had been brought under control after having attacked security policemen during the day.

Warrant Officer Fouché was asked about the journey in the Land Rover, on which he accompanied Biko. He did not think Biko was "unduly ill". He did not think he was in semi-coma.

Ethiopians to use Kenyan port

Nairobi, Nov 30—Ethiopia, besieged by guerrillas in its Red Sea and South-eastern provinces, today received permission to use the Kenyan port of Mombasa for its supplies.

The Government has been cut off from three of its vital sea links by guerrilla forces. Consignments arriving at Mombasa will be airlifted into Addis Ababa as the inland roads are extremely rough and susceptible to guerrilla attacks.—Reuters.

Dissident flies to America

Moscow, Nov 30—Mr Pyotr Grigorenko, one of Moscow's leading dissidents, left today for a six-month visit to the United States. Mr Grigorenko, who is 70 and was a major-general until his demotion in the 1960s, is to have an operation and visit his son, who lives in New York. His departure means that five of the original members of Moscow's dissident Helsinki monitoring group are now abroad.

The double standards game (continued)

THE STRANGE SILENCE OF DR. OWEN



Recently the South African government banned distribution in their country of the Right-wing publication "Did six million really die?" an attempt to whitewash the mass murder of Jews in Nazi Germany.

This odious piece of propaganda could have harmed relations between white communities in South Africa.

No reports of the banning appeared in the mass media of the world. No ambassadors were recalled "for consultation". No protesters appeared in Trafalgar Square with banners.

Yet, when the South African government banned publication of the newspaper "The World", which is white-owned and NOT the ONLY Black voice it is alleged to be, there was a moralistic outcry...

... so who presses the switches?

Racism, whether anti-white or anti-black is not acceptable in South Africa.

Any attempt to interfere with the truly

free press is to be deplored but let us avoid double standards.

For instance...

Four editors have been arrested in the past month by the self-appointed military rulers of Pakistan. A fifth died of a brain haemorrhage shortly after the same army authorities closed his newspaper ("Times" report November 4th 1977).

The four seized were Mr. Syed Badruddin, editor of the Lahore edition of "Musawat" an Urdu language newspaper; Mr. Nazir Naji of the Urdu "Hayat"; Mr. Altaf Qureshi, editor of the monthly magazine Urdu Digest and Mr. Safar Lodhi, editor of the Rawalpindi "Hayat". The editor who died was Mr. Ibrahim Jalees of the Karachi edition of "Musawat".

Pakistan is a member of the Security Council but no motions of censure have been tabled. The Foreign Office has not protested. Why not Dr. Owen? ... Double standards again?

CLUB OF TEN

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ADVERTISEMENT

Ronald Butt

Will the Lib-Lab pact give Mr Steel a social democratic future?

The Council of the Liberal Party has expressed its alarm at the way Mr Steel's Lib-Lab pact is working. It has decided to summon a special Liberal assembly if proportional representation is defeated in the Bill for European direct elections as a consequence of the failure of a substantial majority of Labour MPs to support it.

What is more, it was only by a narrow majority that the council defeated a motion to demand that the Lib-Lab pact be ended, or renegotiated here and now.

Despite this warning, it is unlikely that any number of Labour MPs that could rationally be described as "substantial" will support the desired regional list system, even though Mr Callaghan himself will personally guarantee in the direction of his pact with Mr Steel by doing so. The system is likely to be adopted in first-past-the-post.

As such this will not be a resigning matter for Mr Steel. Nor will it make him renounce the pact. Indeed, the only thing that might impel him to resign would be if his party in its assembly then voted to end the pact which is now theynchpin of his policy, and his parliamentary colleagues endorsed this decision. Mr Steel's determination to keep his party firmly locked into its present social democratic role is paramount.

Before looking at the implications of this, it is worth reminding the precise nature of the complaints about the pact since these are so substantial as to illuminate just how remarkable is Mr Steel's attachment to it, against every obstacle.

First, no piece of major policy-making (not even the Government's policy on small businesses) can genuinely be ascribed to Liberal influence. Most important, the Liberals have not got what they wanted on either devolution or proportional representation to Europe, and have had to stomach it.

Secondly, the moderation of the Labour Government is palpably the consequence of the lack of a Labour majority rather than the influence of the Liberals. In practice the role of the Liberals as Labour's "moderators" is simply to keep the Government in office with the hope of winning an absolute majority for much less moderate policies after the next election, after



which the Liberals can be discarded. Finally, the Liberals have to face the fact that, for all these reasons, they now appear to very many of their former voters as not, after all a genuine third force, but rather as an out-crop of Labour's social democratic wing.

In such a predicament, the Liberals may well seek to force Mr Steel to break the pact. In some ways, it would be a tactically convenient moment to do so. With the Scottish Nationalists still sustaining the Government over devolution, there would be no instant general election when Liberal "support" was withdrawn and, in theory at least, the Liberals might have an interval in which to reestablish themselves as an independent party, and one with policies other than the Lib-Lab pact.

But Mr Steel will defend the pact to the death, and a new Liberal leader will not be easy to find with three ex-leaders still on the Liberal bench. I suppose it is possible that Mr Grimmond, who wrote a scathing critical attack on the Lib-Lab pact in the *Daily Mail* this week, and implicitly (in a *Mail* article) attacked Mr Steel's leadership as well, might be drafted.

But the odds are still that Mr Steel will be able to carry on with the pact, until the next election which he and the

Liberals would fight "independently", but on the sort of terms which would enable the pact to be renewed afterwards if the Tories failed to win an overall majority.

What is significant is that Mr Steel is leading the Liberals towards what looks like a semi-permanent arrangement with Labour which has an uncanny resemblance to the role the German Liberals (the FDP) have in keeping in power the German Socialists (SPD)—the only difference being that the German Socialists are much less left-wing than the British. Of course there are differences. The FDP has, for instance, a record of participation in post-war German governments which it has enjoyed as a result of an electoral system that normally gives it 30 seats. The German government's experience gives the FDP an aura of "real" politics. The British Liberals lack. Nevertheless, what the FDP has failed to do with all its opportunities and advantages is highly instructive.

The FDP has an old though precarious history going back to the days of Imperial Germany. These however, and during the subsequent Weimar period, the German Liberals were haunted by disunity. Since the war, the FDP has claimed to represent a third force between the two major parties that predominate in

German politics—the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) who are more or less conservative, and the Social Democrats (SPD) who are more or less Labour. Yet it has been in practice almost impossible for the FDP to establish itself as a truly independent third force. With both the CDU/CSU and SPD accepting Germany as a social market economy—that is, a capitalist society tempered by various modifications of collectivism—the difference between the two major parties has become in many ways a matter of emphasis. What then is the role of an intermediate third group to be?

Even in the early post-war years, the FDP could never obtain the support of more than an average of about 10 per cent of the German electorate, despite the special advantages it obtained from the electoral system and from its appeal to those (mainly middle class) Germans who, while rejecting socialism, were reluctant to accept the CDU/CSU because of its confessionalist tie.

At first, the FDP were, quite naturally, the allies of Adenauer's Christian Democrats in government against an SPD with some Marxist tendencies: after all, both were "bourgeois" parties.

But two damaging defections for the SPD in the fifties changed this. In 1959, the German Socialists rejected the idea of

seeking to impose total socialism (even by evolution let alone by revolution) in favour of a post-Marxist liberal-social democracy. When, therefore, the CDU/CSU became the largest single party in 1969, but without an overall majority, it became open to the German Liberals to decide which of the two big parties should form the government.

They put the Social Democrats in power by coalition with them, not only because the SPD had gone "respectable" but because the FDP itself had become much more left-wing during the brief period when it was the only opposition party during the grand (CDU/SPD) coalition in the sixties. Its more "conservative" (if you like, Aquinian) elements had been subordinated to its "social democratic" impulses, and the FDP had become a natural ally for the Social Democrats.

Since 1969, the German Liberals have kept the Social Democrats in power. Even though the CDU has been the largest single party in two elections out of the last three, it has been kept out of office—in 1976, by fewer than 10 parliamentary votes.

The FDP is a politically important party because the Social Democrats depend on it for power. But it is also a party which has largely lost its individual identity, and it is hard to imagine (short of a

huge and improbable Marxist turn in the SPD) that it will turn back to the CDU. Essentially, it is an adjunct of the main left-wing party—which is what in practice Mr Steel wants the British Liberals to be.

Since the war, the FDP has never been able to stand alone and it has become increasingly hard to see what it stands for. The analogy with the Liberals can be taken further. When the FDP first made common cause with the Socialists, it promptly lost nearly half its voters to the CDU, which is what is happening to the British Liberals as a result of their pact. In 1969, the FDP's poll fell to 5.8 per cent of the total vote, and in 1976, it still commanded less than 8 per cent.

With all the advantages of experience in government, and a proportionate system which has generally given it over 30 seats, the FDP has never broken through to become a major party. Like the British Liberals, it consists of individuals at the apex, and an uncertain constituency in the electorate which has never become popular.

The Liberal Party's pretext that proportionate representation would enable it to build on some kind of popular Liberal electorate in the country is pure fantasy, and the German experience is evidence of that. Such a popular constituency does not exist in the present political spectrum.

The modern breed of Liberals, British as well as Germans, are basically social democrats, and are the natural allies of the major party of the left as long as it eschews socialist extremes. That is what Mr Steel is: that is the role he wants for his party.

But there is another lesson to be learnt from Germany as well. Despite proportional representation, the Liberals there have not become a genuinely independent force: yet under our own much maligned system, the Labour Party replaced the old Liberals, and the Scottish Nationalists have become a genuine challenge.

The moral seems to be that the rise of a political party depends not on the electoral system but on whether it really has something to say that a sufficiently large section of the electorate want to hear.

Hongkong Behind the distressing reports about corruption in Hongkong, the near-mutiny of the police force, and the colony's appalling difficulties over Economic Community, there lies the need for a fundamental rethinking of the role of this colony vis-à-vis China and the rest of the world.

Until now, Hongkong has generally been seen as a problem of Sino-British relations. Two Foreign Office men are permanently on duty in the government secretariat here to look after any problems arising between Britain and China over Hongkong, or simply between Hongkong and China. Their role today is decidedly happier than it was 10 years ago, when leftist mobs were roaming the streets and murdering policemen.

But it is time Britain, the other western European powers and the United States began to take a less parochial view of Hongkong—and the same applies to those British civil servants and members of Parliament who think Britain has no valid role here at all.

Hongkong today is a financial centre almost equal in importance to Wall Street or the City of London. It has one of the world's biggest real estate companies and shipping lines, and its economy is among the most buoyant in the world. Its currency is rivalled in stability and appreciation value only by a few others such as the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen.

Most important, Hongkong is China's biggest source of foreign exchange, though in visible trade it is surpassed by Japan. With China apparently still committed to a strong anti-Soviet line, and even talking publicly about buying the British Harrier jump-jet to defend itself against Soviet attack, Hongkong can no longer be seen as purely, or even mainly, an Anglo-Chinese problem.

The Chinese authorities have already given as clear assurances as they feel they need to remain under British rule beyond the expiry of the new territories lease in 1997.

Many a big British exporting and trading company will regard this as good news, though to the British Government Hongkong is increasingly an embarrassment.

Events such as the riot by off-duty policemen outside the headquarters of the Independent Commission against Corruption last month, and the feeble measures since taken to punish the perpetrators, do Hongkong's image no good when its negotiators are sitting round the table in Brussels defending the colony's access to textile import quotas in developed countries. But they should be seen in perspective.

David Bonavia



Riot police charge into communist rioters in Hongkong in 1967.

Our first defence need is better machinery for taking the big decisions

The main problem of defence is non-party. When Lord Carrer says our defences are at rock bottom, there is a huge inference that all would be well if we voted Conservative. This is not so. The Conservatives would at most add 10 per cent to our defence capability.

This inference is dwarfed by the real problem: the growing cost of equipment, by which the price of a bomber today would have bought 100 bombers in the Second World War, even allowing for inflation.

For warships, the proportion is at least 10 to 1.

The problem is aggravated for Britain by two factors which we share only with the United States: volunteer forces, consuming half the budget, and an across-the-board capability, from H-bombs to rubber bullets.

This is why Britain, having largely withdrawn from Nato, is now withdrawing important elements from Nato. It is a very grave situation (but which no one is to blame, but it is going to require decisions and choices in the early future as a matter of urgency).

In spite of the high quality

of those involved, the record of the present system does not give reason to believe that it is adequate for this task. Few people are satisfied with it. Mr William Rodgers was being quite factual when he told the defence estimates sub-committee that the machinery for taking the big strategic decisions in the Ministry of Defence is "not very sophisticated".

Another former minister admits that basic decisions about the role of the Royal Navy simply never get taken, but are successively postponed; and as a minister he was as much to blame as anybody. Hence the system lies to a large degree by default in the hands of the Chiefs of Staff. To give only the latest example from my experience, a former Defence Minister was recently asked whether he would restore the cuts in the Parachute Regiment, and replied that this was a problem he would leave to the Chiefs of Staff. His only job was to get money out of the Cabinet, he said.

This is surely bad practice, and certainly does not correspond to the theory of how British defence decisions are taken. The theory is that the

basic lines of defence policy are laid down by the Foreign Office, rather than by the people who have to execute it.

The Foreign Office, though it has an excellent defence department, seldom sees the Defence White Paper in time to make substantial alterations. Thus the huge job of representing the taxpayer devolves wholly on the Centre at the Ministry of Defence, which does not seem adequately equipped to shoulder it.

The result is a defence policy in which (a) single-service projects tend to get priority; (b) vital inter-service functions, including amphibious capability and air mobility, are subordinated; (c) prestige weapons achieve disproportionate attention; (d) no new commitment, such as the defence of the Ulster situation for several years and the coastal naval ships which other North Sea nations now possess.

But these mistakes gravely hazard the lives of servicemen, and would probably have been avoided by a more effective system of inter-service co-operation, by much smaller powers possessing only a fraction of Britain's defence resources.

The Centre must be strengthened. A concerted effort to do this was made by Mr Denis Healey 10 years ago. The programme evaluation group was an attempt to create an impartial body of experts to assess objectively the claims made by

the three services, particularly where they were in conflict with each other. Not surprisingly it was disliked by the Chiefs of Staff, who resolved to destroy it. They succeeded in doing so largely because it did not have access to sufficient data to meet the service chiefs in specialized arguments. I understand that if it were revived now, it would stand a much better chance of success than it did then.

In any event, this defect needs to be repaired, in the context of the management review which Mr Roy Mason began over a year ago. One way, advocated by the present Foreign Secretary in his book, *The Politics of Defence*, would be to build up the office of the Chief of Defence Staff, creating a well-served CDS committee, and to abolish the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Some experts believe that the machine is all right, but is not being used to its best advantage. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, accepts much of the above analysis.

He would argue for two reforms. First, the Defence

Council, or Defence Board—consisting mainly of the ministers, the four Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the permanent under secretary—should behave like the board of a large company, and lay down the policy which subordinate boards would administer.

At present it simply does not do this. But there is a prospect of action here, as under Mr Fred Mulley the Defence Council has at least met much more often than in the past.

Several previous measures to strengthen the Centre have been frustrated by the fact that Defence Policy Staff report to the Chiefs of Staff, who are able to savage objective thinking from the single-service viewpoint.

But in one way or another the interests of national defence, as opposed to that of the individual Services as viewed by the Chiefs of Staff, needs to be strengthened by building up the Centre. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, accepts much of the above analysis.

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Hugh Hannan

The rich, aromatic, bittersweet chunks of Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade have made the British breakfast a matter of envy the world over. Ever since Mrs. Cooper filled the first jars in 1874, the men of Oxford have spread its fame in the tropics, the New World as far as the Antarctic and Everest itself.

FRANK COOPER

makes the marmalade that makes the British breakfast



The centre of Ulster is now in London

Communing has never been my favourite pastime and it was, therefore, with awe that I learnt yesterday that Don Concanon, the Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, had just made his 47th flight between Belfast and London.

Mr Concanon was, admittedly, several hours late for the opening of the Ulster Trade Centre in London, but he made it. His aircraft was tied up and British Airways in Belfast refused to lend their quick-declining machine so that the minister, and lots of other important people, had to fly BA scheduled flights instead.

This Christmas will be Mr Concanon's fourth in Ulster, which makes him by far the longest serving minister in the Northern Ireland team. He thrives on the hard work and travel and told me that he hoped the Centre would be of real benefit to the Province and to the people who do business with it.

The Centre has been set up as a boost to Northern Ireland exports. It is a trade centre and not just an exhibition hall. Situated in Berkeley Street, with a display window full of seasonal Christmas toys handmade in the Province, it should, according to Barry Oliver, the



director of the Ulster Office, be of great help to busy buyers from abroad. My favourite item on display? Inevitably, Old Bushmills whiskey.

Americans seem to be taking the energy crisis seriously. The Heater Corporation of Providence, Rhode Island, is importing Irish Peat to burn in your fireplace or stove. A 15lb carton costs about £10 plus sales tax.

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Music makers come into brass

I do not expect Bernard Levin to agree with me, but Wagner could be an impossible man. What he writes for is a musical instrument that had not been invented.

He wanted some special tubas for the first performance of *Das Rheingold* in 1869 and of course he got them. They were even named after him.

That was only the start of the trouble. Once the military band-type Wagner tubas came into being, only a handful of composers—Strauss, (Richard), Bruckner and Mahler, among them—wrote parts for it.

Some military orchestras are lucky. Wagner tubas are part of their equipment—even though they are rarely needed and rapidly deteriorate in idleness. The London Symphony and the City of Birmingham have always had to hire theirs.

Angry French trolley song

People who have been complaining about crowded British trains can take comfort from the fact that we are taking our revenge on Calais.

The coachloads of weekend shoppers joining the pre-Christmas rush to the French coastal hypermarkets are rapidly forcing the French housewives to abandon hope of managing any shopping on Saturdays. They commander all the available shopping trolleys and then

block the aisles alongside the display of table wines while they argue interminably about customs allowances and how many bottles make two litres.

Even if the French can beg, borrow or steal a trolley, they cannot get past "I am sorry to say it," commented one hypermarket manager in the first stages of xenophobia, "but the British shoppers are at least ten times more trouble than the yare worth."

A costly and (see above comment about idleness) risky business. Now, the LSO and CSBO have jointly come up with some brass, as they say up North. Tube Investments—only one vowel away from being in the tube business themselves—have donated four of the valved zarties to the two orchestras who will work out the sharing arrangements for themselves.

At the handing over ceremony yesterday, four members of the LSO's horn section played a few bars of Offenbach on the £3,500 worth of brass. Reactions were mixed: "Sounds like a refined euphonium," said one. "Sounds fruttier than a zartie born in a brass band," said another. Though they sounded Wagnerian.

Double (Dutch) entendre

Dutch, as a school friend of mine once explained, is the most difficult language. I was only marginally surprised, therefore, when the said friend, Albert Teixeira de Matos (who is now general manager of James, Lang, Wootton in Europe) called me to explain the double Dutch that appeared on the dust cover of *War & Stranger*, by General Sir John Hackett (which came out last month).

The cover picture shows Sir John, as a young officer in the war, wearing a badge with the letters "SE". This (in Dutch) stood for "Slecht Hoorend", which means "hard of hearing" and provided wearers with an alibi for not responding to questions and (therefore) not giving away their English accents.

The dust cover notes explain

that the letters stood for "sela" (which is not a Dutch word) "hoorend" (which is and means "frequenting whores"). Mr Teixeira de Matos comes from Oosterbek (near enough to Arnhem) where many of the Allied troops landed and made their famous stand during the Battle of Arnhem. He therefore finds the mistake doubly silly. Chatter, and Windus, the publishers, tell me that the error will be corrected in the reprint.

The latest recruit to the National Freedom of Information campaign, pledged to restore the "citizens' right to know", is Bill Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades. It was "in the public interest" two days ago that the Appeal Court—against Sogal's wishes—ruled that the Daily Express could print extra copies during the Daily Mirror dispute.

The latest examples of polymathy to reach my ever-receptive ears all happen to be musical. Gavin Henderson, genial general manager of the Philharmonia who spends much time blowing his orchestra's trumpet, will blow his own for a change at a performance of Handel's Messiah by Saint Mary's Music Society at St Mary's Bryanston Square W1 on December 10. He will play first trumpet—the very least one could expect from a man of such musical virtuosity. As for the Right Rev Michael Marshall, Bishop Suffragan of Woolwich, he will preside at the services when he tackles a Mozart piano concerto in a gala concert, in aid of Crisis at Christmas, at the Plasterers Hall on Friday. Another celebrated polymath, will conduct Edward Heath.



For the rest of Britain, however, the danger is not yet endangered, and the Government is doing all that is possible to prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of the country.

What is now needed is the means to provide limited protection for the other within those areas where it really is endangered, and legislation to control the use of our resources of fresh water so that the water gets a fair crack of the whip, and to ensure that the so-called "water" of some people do not take automatic precedence. I trust that these points will be borne in mind when the matter is debated in Parliament.

J. LITTON,
University of Exeter,
Department of Biological Sciences,
Prince of Wales Road,
Exeter.

When Professor Dahrendorf started his initiative he spoke of the need to diagnose the British malaise, and even eminent economists like Professor Caves of Harvard, political analysts like Christopher Polesey, or multi-disciplinary inquiries like the notorious Hudson Report have told us clearly that our problems are social and even psychological as much as economic or political. We must not be so set in our view of the narrow "Brookings" image and accept that a wide range of social science disciplines should be brought to bear on policy studies. Yours truly,
FRANK A. HELLER,
Director, Brookings Institute of Human Relations,
Beltz Lane, NW3,
London 25.

which comes under the direct control of the Prime Minister, has sometimes been used to make policy behind the backs of Parliament and the Cabinet, an activity which can hardly be described as "innocent."

It is quite clear that Neville Chamberlain, for example, used the SIS to investigate the possibility of compromising peace with Germany in October/November, 1939, an activity which cost him the confidence of the majority of his colleagues, including Churchill. It was only because the affair ended dramatically with the kidnapping of two British agents from Holland that this episode

the full record of its activities released. It goes without saying that such a situation would not be tolerated for an instant in the United States. Parliament must not allow itself to be created by the ressemblances of Gornovny Roberts but should instead demand full application of the 30-year rule to the records of the SIS.

Yours faithfully,
CALIUM A. MacDonald,
Chairman of the Conservative
American Studies
University of Warwick,
Coventry,
Warwickshire,
November 26.

From Mr Bob Hughes
Sir, In his article on the European Assembly Elections Bill (November 28), David Wood is right to point out that these conservative MPs are trying to face the Conservative Party believe that it is time for principle to be put before party advantage.

To achieve this, the Young Conservatives have been urging our Members of Parliament to:—
1. Vote for a public motion on debate, as this is the only way that the Bill has any chance to be passed
2. Take time to allow the elections to take place next year.

presence of Dutch elm disease, which lies only under the bark.

He worked the wood fresh and unseasoned, counteracting any tendency to crack, by drilling a hole right through the core of the trunk.

He was sure the wood was protected from insect attack by a few applications of a recognized woodworm dressing, when the work was finished. The result of this treatment is that all his pieces have survived without any rotting or cracking.

Yours faithfully,
JANE BLENSDORF,
Gladen,
Bruton,
Somerset.

presence of Dutch elm disease, which lies only under the bark.

He worked the wood fresh and unseasoned, counteracting any tendency to crack, by drilling a hole right through the core of the trunk. The sculpture was protected from insect attack by a few applications of a recognized woodworm dressing, when the work was finished. The result of this treatment is that all his pieces have survived without any rotting or cracking.

— J. FATHER, JANE ELENSDORF, Gladen, Bruton, Somerset.

John Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORS

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

Bank quells fears over interest rates with signal to hold MLR

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday moved to quell growing fears of a continuing increase in interest rates by informing the discount houses that it had no wish to see a further rise in its own minimum lending rate.

This action had an immediate and dramatic effect on financial markets. Three month Treasury bills, the key to minimum lending rate, dropped back from 7.6 per cent to close at 6.6 1/2 per cent, a level consistent with MLR remaining unchanged at 7 per cent to correct.

Other money market rates also fell back. Three month interbank money, which had risen to 8 1/2 per cent in early trading eventually finished at 7 1/2 per cent. Gilt edged stocks which had been up to 2 1/2 per cent in early trading quickly erased their morning losses to finish the day with gains of up to 1 1/2 p.

The decision by the Bank to multiplify feelings on interest rates came after the Bank had signalled its growing confidence in financial markets late on Tuesday afternoon.

The Bank made it clear to the discount market that it

regarded last week's 2 per cent rise in MLR to 7 per cent as adequately correcting the distortion to the interest rate structure that had occurred earlier in the autumn because of the exceptionally heavy overseas inflows.

Although the Bank's move was generally welcomed in markets as helping to clear the air, there was only limited activity behind the turnaround in the gilt edged market where there is continuing uncertainty about the authorities' ability to resume gilt sales on any great scale.

The Bank's announcement that it wished to see no further rise in MLR for the time being was quickly followed by an announcement that Williams & Glyn's was to raise its base rate from 6 to 7 1/2 per cent. Its deposit rate is to go up from 3 to 3 1/2 per cent.

This means that each of the five London clearing banks now has a different base rate. This may not last beyond today, however. Barclays, which has still to make any move from the 6 per cent level, continued to mull over the situation yesterday afternoon. But, assuming that money markets show signs of stability this morning, it seems likely that Barclays will not delay a decision for very much longer.

Financial Editor, page 19

Commodity find talks at deadlock

Geneva, Nov. 30.—The group of 24 developing countries here today acknowledged that talks on a common fund for commodities had reached an impasse, and had to seek a suspension of the current negotiations.

Mr. Lyubomir Sekulic, chairman of the group, said he had informed the president of the conference, which is organized by the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), that the developing countries had unanimously decided to seek the suspension.

Mr. Sekulic blamed the developed countries for the impasse, saying that the group of 77 was taking a "serious step" because some developed countries were unwilling even to agree to the fundamental aspect of a common fund.

This was despite the commitments given by the developed countries at Unctad's Nairobi summit and the North-South dialogue in Paris last summer.

Insurance brokers fail 'Which' test

By Robin Young

On the day the Insurance Brokers Registration Council is set up to monitor the industry, it gets a scathing report in *Money Which?*, published today by the Consumers' Association.

The magazine sent people to ask 163 brokers for advice on given sets of circumstances. Their conclusion is that the brokers tested "put on a fairly dismal show."

On life insurance problems, *Money Which?* found, the brokers did not ask enough questions accurately to assess the clients' needs. Most failed to suggest a cover at all on the wife's life, though the family were supposed to have two small children.

Money Which? concludes that the new council "has a major task ahead of it, if it is to lift the current standard of information and advice being given."

The magazine suggests that the code of conduct for the industry which the council will prepare should require brokers to make it clear if they only deal with a limited number of companies, and let the customer know if they do not have specialist need of the type of insurance wanted.

Leyland may seek £50m more to meet cash crisis

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars, which lost £15.7m in the first half of the year, is facing another cash flow crisis as a result of mounting losses from internal and external sources.

So serious is the situation that if the present trend continues it will have to seek another injection of government cash within the next few weeks.

It is only two months since the parent, British Leyland Group, received a £50m loan from the National Enterprise Board. This money—originally intended for capital investment projects—had to be diverted for the day-to-day requirements of the cars subsidiary.

A further £50m tranche was expected next February after Mr. Michael Edwards, the new chairman, has submitted a review of the group's position and his own plans for rescuing it.

It now seems certain that this money will have to be forthcoming ahead of that review, and renewed scrutiny by the NEB and the Department of Industry.

This further setback in the long running saga of Leyland Cars is being revealed this week in management briefings to shop steward members of the three shop stewards' committees.

So far the news has been given to the top two tiers—Leyland Cars Joint Management Committee and the divisional committees. During the next few days the 34 plant committees will be put in the picture.

Stewards have been told that the company is "in a bit of a bind" and that things began to go wrong through the recent long-running strike at Lucas, together with strikes in its own plants such as the one which stopped production of the TR7 sports car and the Dolomite saloon for the past month.

As a result production fell sharply and Leyland are now holding only 22 per cent of the home market, compared with more than 30 per cent last year.

The stewards were warned that Leyland could run out of money by the middle of December unless there was a substantial improvement.

Their backing is being sought for urgent steps by management to postpone further capital expenditure projects, reduce overmanning by switching workers to areas where they can be more effective, ending restrictive practices and introducing stricter control of stocks.

These stocks include several thousand cars still waiting for components held up by strikes at suppliers.

In a statement last night, Leyland Cars said: "The purpose of the briefings which are confidential, is to ensure that through the existing production and communications channels all employees are informed of what we want to do to improve our performance in 1978."

The company refused to disclose details of the crisis as revealed to the shop stewards.

Swan Hunter loses 3 of 7 Polish ships as work is reassigned

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

British Shipbuilders yesterday carried out the pledge to reassign Polish shipbuilding contracts to other yards because of the industrial trouble at Swan Hunter, originally scheduled to build seven 16,500 ton dwt bulk carriers worth £25m.

The company stated that it had been the "greatest hope and intention" that the ships would go to the Tyneside group. It deeply regretted that this was not possible because of the decision by 1,700 ordnance workers to maintain their overtime ban which had prevented assurance on cooperation in meeting the tight delivery deadlines demanded by the Poles for the construction of 14-vee package ships valued at £115m.

Three of the seven ships have so far been reassigned. One has gone to Govan Shipbuilders, already building ten 4,500 ton multi-purpose ships for the Polish—those workers have provided the assurance demanded.

Two other ships in the Swan package, said the state company, were being reassigned to other northern shipyards. The other yards involved were not disclosed, but industry sources suggested that Sunderland Shipbuilders and Austin & Pickersill, both of which have modern facilities with 25m.

Confirmation of the placing of the two ships will be given before the end of this week, but the allocation of the other four ships in the original Swan package is not expected until next week.

Further assessment of the most beneficial switching of the contracts is being carried out by British Shipbuilders' executives, and privately there is a hope that the workers' decision—which will lead to several hundred redundancies—and a calling off of the ban coupled, with the provision of a new shipyard, will allow the four contracts to be placed with the Tyneside yards.

Inco raising \$325m to finance nickel stocks

By Desmond Quigley

Inco, the world's largest nickel producer, is raising up to \$325m (about £175m) to help it through the crisis facing the industry.

The company has announced that it is raising \$325m through the issue of 5 million Can\$25 preferred shares at par. It is reported from Canada that the issue has not got off to a good start.

Size of the issue is in line with market expectations. However, Inco has caused considerable surprise by announcing further fund raising issues.

Company directors had authorized a long-term debt offering of \$150m while the company was considering a private placement of floating rate preferred shares up to an amount not expected to exceed Can\$50m.

This total of \$325m would cover total borrowings of \$1710m (borrowings at the end

of September had risen to \$1,385m from \$1,225m at the beginning of the year). Only last May the company raised \$239m through a preferred share issue.

Although the company's dominance in the industry has been rapidly eroded over the past 30 years—its sales accounted for 85 per cent of demand in 1950, but this year it is likely to be only 30 per cent—it is still by far the largest producer and has been bearing the brunt of the nickel stockpile increases.

By the end of September the company's stockpile of finished nickel had risen to 308 million lb, some three times the normal level, and getting close to the level of Inco's expected total sales for this year.

The company is in line with other major producers, has been cutting back production and has reduced its prices sharply as a price war has gained momentum in the industry.

Bonn credit clamp on South African deals

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Nov. 30

West Germany today decided to clamp down on the granting of export credit guarantees to companies trading with South Africa.

In the future Bonn will only be prepared to guarantee deals of up to DM50m (about £12m) in value where payment is made in the short or medium term—a period of less than five years.

But today's cabinet decision reflected more a pragmatic than a moral approach to the trading activities of German companies abroad.

For at the same time as restricting guarantees on exports to South Africa, the cabinet agreed to provide guarantees to cover the export of four nuclear power stations to Iran and the delivery of a submarine to the military regime in Argentina.

The guarantees for the Iranian nuclear deal, which is currently being negotiated with the Siemens subsidiary Kraftwerke Union AG, will be the largest ever taken over by the West German government and will be Bonn's latest commitment as regards Iran well above the ceiling of guarantees usually granted in connexion with a single trading partner.

But at stake were not just jobs at home but the whole future of the German nuclear industry in export markets.

Similarly, the submarine deal, where Bonn is providing guarantees totalling DM339m will help provide jobs in the Emden area of north-west Germany where unemployment is at 10 per cent.

Dr. Armin Grünewald, the West German government's deputy spokesman, pointed out that the change in guarantee policy as it affects South Africa reflects the increased risks arising from the economic and political developments.

Union may challenge pay sanctions in court

By Maurice Corina

Legal action to test the Government's right to apply sanctions against companies who refuse to accept pay guidelines is being contemplated by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

The challenge would centre on the withdrawal of certain export guarantees from James Mackie & Son of Belfast, the only known case of sanctions being applied, although 11 companies are on the Treasury's list for possible reprisals.

Lawyers instructed by ASTMS, which has members at Mackie, have been requested to send an exploratory letter to Mr. John Connamon, Minister of State for Northern Ireland.

On September 20 Mr. Connamon gave Mackie 48 hours' notice that its applications for guarantees under section 2 of the Export Guarantees Act 1975 would be refused unless he received a clear indication that a 22 per cent pay rise for its 4,000 workers would be renegotiated.

Mr. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, said yesterday the union was exploring what rights ministers have to interfere in this fashion.

"We shall see whether their actions are authorised by statute, and whether they can be halted by the courts. Our lawyers have been requested to send an exploratory letter to the Minister of State for Northern Ireland to clarify some aspects of the law."

At the same time, ASTMS is ready, if Mackie is forced to honour its agreement, to bring straightforward breach of contract cases.

The Treasury, on August 19, without directly naming Mackie, announced its intention to use section 2 of the export credits legislation as one sanction. This section says that for the purpose of encouraging trade with other countries or rendering economic assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom the Secretary of State for Trade may, with the consent of the Treasury, make arrangements for giving such guarantees or for the benefit of persons carrying on business in the United Kingdom as appear to him expedient in the national interest.

Deputy chief of Racial resigns

By Our Financial Staff

Mr. Oliver Prens has resigned as deputy chairman of Racial Electronics. Mr. Prens had been with Racial eight years since his company, Controls and Communications, was taken over in 1969.

His Racial shareholding in the last balance sheet was shown as 681,000 shares, although this was reduced by 20,000 between April and June of this year, according to the report. His holding is roughly 0.6 per cent of the issued capital.

Racial's first-half figures are due today and with some doubts about the United States Milgo acquisition earlier this year the results have been waited with some trepidation, which coupled with the court case has resulted in marked weakness in the shares.

Further rise in American leading indicators

Washington, Nov. 30.—The Administration's composite index of leading economic indicators rose 0.7 per cent in October, marking the fourth consecutive monthly increase, the Commerce Department reports. The increase put the index at 133.8 per cent of the 1967 average.

The September jump was revised upward in the latest figures to 0.4 per cent from the previously reported 0.3 per cent rise and the August increase was revised upward to 1.7 per cent from the previously reported 1.4 per cent.

In October seven of the 10 individual indicators available moved favourably, two unfavourably and one was unchanged.

Those moving favourably were the average work week,

the company's request yesterday after climbing 63p to 38p.

Allied Polymer, the Surrey-based rubber and plastics products producer and one of Slater, Walker vehicle, saw pre-tax profits slump from a depressed £225m to £101m last year.

However since the year-end the group has attracted some interest in the stock market on the belief that a strong recovery could be underway.

Pre-strike fire loss up

Fire damage costs leapt alarmingly to £19.1m in October against £13.8m in the corresponding month of last year. The figure is seen as particularly disappointing by the British Insurance Association as it shows a sharp reversal of

an earlier encouraging trend even before the firemen's strike began.

According to BIA estimates costs have been significantly down from last year in seven of the preceding nine months—from £202m to £185m.

Japan exports pledge

Japan's electronics companies have agreed to peg exports to Britain of the multiple audio units—usually sold as music centres—at this year's levels, according to unconfirmed reports in Tokyo yesterday. This follows talks there with a Radio Industry Council delegation from Britain, whose main concern was the sharp increase in audio imports.

Protectionist fears

Member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade regard the uncertainty created by protectionist moves as at least as harmful as the measures themselves, Mr. George Maciel, of Brazil, the chairman, said yesterday in summing up discussions during a two-day meeting in Geneva.

Mr. Li sees ministers

Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Li Chiang, China's foreign trade minister, yesterday spent an hour discussing prospects for Sino-British trade. Both agreed trade would expand, but there was no discussion of any specific items such as Britain's Harrier military jump-jet aircraft. Earlier Mr. Li discussed the purchase of technological expertise with Mr. Wadsworth, Secretary of State for Energy.

Will Cavity Wall Insulation cut your heating bills?

(see what Mr. R. Murray of Edinburgh found...)

Dear Sir,

The claims you make in your advertising seem so modest in relation to my own experience that I thought you might be interested in the figures.

My gas bill for 1975 was £235.54 and the estimate for 1976 was £312. At the time of the last reading in 1975 you completed the cavity wall insulation of my house and I subsequently put a glass fibre between the rafters above the kitchen where the heating boiler is situated.

The enclosed photocopies show that my 1976 bill fell to £169.91, in spite of an increase in the price per therm.

To say that I am delighted is an understatement.

Yours faithfully,

R. R. Murray

It's a fact that Ufoam Plus cavity wall insulation carried out by Cape Insulation Services experts can reduce your heating bills by up to 25% or more, and pay for itself in 3-6 years. Over 150,000 homes have already been insulated and are enjoying the benefit.

Ufoam Plus developed by

Get the facts now, free, simply cut out this Freepost Coupon and Cape Insulation Services will arrange for a free survey including our special interest-free credit arrangement and 30 year Guarantee all without obligation.

If you prefer, telephone us at our expense by asking the operator for Freephone 2179 at any time.

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Just address envelope as follows: do not affix stamp. We pay postage. Address to Cape Insulation Services Ltd., Freepost, Welwyn Garden City, AL9 8LY.

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Builders see no backing for 'dock labour' plan

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Building employers are cautiously optimistic that they have blocked trade union efforts to introduce a "dock labour" scheme of workmen's registration and fall-back pay. The Construction Industry Manpower Board (CIMB), set up two years ago to advise the government on employment, is expected on December 12 to agree an interim report recommending voluntary registers of employers. The theory of sanctions against companies refusing to participate will almost certainly be left to the two sides of the industry to decide.

Building industry unions, backed by the TUC Construction Committee, have long argued the need for decasualisation of the industry under a statutory register of both employers and employees, to be implemented by a Manpower Board and with sanctions against companies refusing to take part. All registered building workers would be guaranteed employment or "fall-back" pay.

The employers have fought this proposal on the grounds that a statutory register would be an inflexible intervention in the industry's manpower practices and harmful to commercial success.

It now seems almost certain that the CIMB will recommend to Mr. Freeman, Minister of Housing and Construction, that three voluntary registers of employers should be set up covering building, civil engineering and specialist sub-contractors. The criteria for registration, and any question of sanctions, will be left for the industry's collective bargaining machinery if the employers have their way.

The CIMB is working to terms of reference laid down by the Government "to advise the Secretary of State for the Environment on the desirability of statutory or other measures to increase the stability of employment in the construction industry and, in particular, the desirability of establishing a statutory authority to implement measures for that purpose which could also include a register of employers and employees".

In the face of strenuous delaying tactics by the employers, the unions have gradually dropped their insistence on statutory registration and in return the employers are willing to accept some form of voluntary registration.

But they are still deeply divided over the question of sanctions and may in the end reject the kind of enforcement provisions that the unions are vital to the success of the scheme.

Population decline in big UK cities

By Caroline Atkinson

Fewer people now live and work in densely populated areas. The dispersal of population and jobs from crowded urban areas since the beginning of the 1960s is noted in a report prepared by the Department of Employment's Unit for Manpower studies.

Between 1961 and 1974 the population in Britain's seven major conurbation areas declined by 6.8 per cent. Meanwhile the rest of Britain has grown by 13.4 per cent.

Resident labour forces have also declined in the seven conurbations of Greater London, Central Clydeside, Merseyside, South East Lancashire, Tyne-side, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Between 1951 and 1961 the labour forces in these areas grew by 2.7 per cent while that in the rest of Britain rose by 8.5 per cent. In the next 10

years the labour force shrank by 7.2 per cent in the urban areas while growing by 11.5 per cent outside the seven. Despite their relative decline in importance in terms of population and employment these large metropolitan areas still dominate in absolute size. About a third of Britons live in the big seven, and they accounted for 35 per cent of the resident British labour force in 1971.

The report suggests that as living standards have improved and the technology of transport and communications advanced, the pursuit of more space outside the cities has been made possible. This trend is also thought likely to continue.

In spite of the decline in the labour force in the metropolitan areas, in all but two the number of managers, professionals and self-employed increased, although the most obvious difference between the

metropolitan groups and the rest of the country was that employment of other skilled and other non-manual workers fell in the former and rose in the latter.

More accidents

In the first three months of 1977 there were 62,677 accidents at work notified to the Factory Inspectorate, of which 110 were fatal. This is 11,145 more than in the last quarter of 1976. Miners are excluded from these figures.

The area with the most accidents in the latest quarter was the North-east, where 5,657 took place with 14 fatalities.

Employment falls

The number of jobs in Britain fell by 155,000 between June 1975 and 1976, to 22,048,000. This is shown in the results for the detailed annual census of

employment for 1976. The number of men in full-time employment fell by 144,000 and the number of women by 56,000.

There has been a marked slackening in the trend of growing female part-time employment in the 1970s, which has not been picked up by the quarterly censuses. The 34,000 increase between 1975 and 1976 was the smallest since the annual census began in 1971.

Union membership up

Total union membership rose by 3.6 per cent to reach 12,376,000 in 1976. The total number of unions rose from 461 to 462. The 11 largest unions had 62.4 per cent of the total membership. Men accounted for 71.2 per cent of all union members, but the proportion of women in the unions increased slightly from 28.4 per cent to 28.8 per cent.

Two new proposals on accounting

By Our Financial Staff

Two new accountancy standards have been proposed in the form of exposure drafts by the International Accounting Standards Committee.

One, the eleventh exposure draft by the IASC, covers accounting for foreign transactions and the translation of foreign financial statements. It suggests that, with some exceptions, foreign currency deals should be recorded using the foreign exchange rates existing at the time of the transaction. It also requires detailed disclosure of foreign exchange gains or losses.

The second, the IASC's twelfth exposure draft, covers accounting for construction contracts, but in the United Kingdom and Ireland this subject matter is covered by accounting standard 9.

European Airbus £30m UK deal

Orders totalling £30m for further sets of wings for the European A300 Airbus have been received by British Aerospace.

This brings the value of total orders for Airbus wings placed with the Hawker Siddley Aviation factories within BA since the start of the Airbus programme to £150m, providing employment for 2,000 workers.

Orders for the Airbus, made by a consortium of international aircraft manufacturers in France, West Germany, Britain, Holland and Spain, have doubled to 110 in the past 11 months.

From Air announced on Tuesday an order for 10

Hint on N Sea gas to spin out reserves

By Edward Townsend

Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of British Gas, gave a broad hint yesterday that the state corporation might take less gas from the North Sea in future in an attempt to spin out reserves.

Speaking at the presentation of this year's gas energy management awards, Sir Denis said there was much that could be done to the nation's requirements to ensure a plentiful supply, but not an embarrassing over-supply of indigenous oil and gas year by year.

In the special case of gas, because of the contracts designed by British Gas from the outset, there were a number of additional options available.

"We will be doing our best to prolong the life of North Sea gas as far as possible into the future—even if this means paying for some gas now but leaving it under the sea for the future instead of selling it into non-premium markets."

Earlier, Sir Denis said there was enough gas to meet the needs of all premium markets—domestic customers, commercial premises and industrial users—

well ahead, at least to the end of the century, on the basis of discovered reserves.

Next year gas would be saving about £3,000m on the balance of payments against £3,400m for oil. "But neither gas nor oil could transform the economy; they could provide only a breathing space in which to rebuild the country's industrial base."

Conservation awards: Vauxhall's car plant at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, and North West Gas were named as joint winners of this year's gas energy management award, presented by British Gas.

The award, which goes to the company and gas region judged to have made the most significant contribution to energy conservation, went to Vauxhall for a scheme for improving furnace efficiency. This has resulted in possible savings of 500,000 therms a year, worth about £60,000 to the company.

Sir Denis said the 18 finalists had achieved savings totalling almost seven million therms a year, enough to meet the total energy requirements of a town the size of Dover.

Shoppers by car switch to suburbs

By Patricia Tisdall

Large suburban supermarkets with extended opening hours and car parking facilities have contributed to a marked shift of trade away from the city centre, according to a study prepared by the York Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The research, carried out since September 1974, examines the effects on food shopping habits of an Asda superstore and a Hildards supermarket on the outskirts of the city.

It shows that the proportion of car shoppers using York city centre dropped from 25 per cent to 23 per cent over the first 12 months. Four food stores in the city centre closed and others lost trade between the Asda opening in 1974 and April 1976.

Shops which closed down included a Fine Fare branch with 4,000 sq ft of selling area but no car parking. York, a study of Shopping, can be obtained from the York Junior Chamber of Commerce, Hungate, York YO1 2PA.

California tax hint on foreign companies

Mr Jerry Brown, California State Governor, confirmed yesterday that he wants to limit the application of the state's unitary tax system on foreign companies based in California.

Answering questions during a private visit to London, Mr Brown said he was doing this through support for the United States-United Kingdom Double Tax Treaty or, if necessary, state legislation.

The treaty, still under consideration by the United States Senate Foreign Relations Com-

mittee, contains a controversial clause limiting the application of unitary tax assessment systems to operations of foreign companies inside the United States, rather than worldwide as currently practised by the California state tax authorities.

In hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee in July, California state tax authorities opposed this provision, Article 9(4), on grounds it impinged on state versus federal tax rights.

Shortly before an expected ruling on the treaty by the Foreign Relations Committee in September, Governor Brown was reported to have altered his view on this provision, fearing adverse consequences for foreign investment in the state.

He confirmed yesterday that in discussions with United Kingdom businessmen during his visit he has assured them he is seeking to limit the application of California's tax system on foreign company operations there—Reuter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Threat from cut-price EEC process plant

From Mr J. L. Good

Sir, In his speech to the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances on November 24, the Secretary of State for Trade related to the need for Britain and its European partners to have selective safeguards against disruptive imports.

The process plant industry's current concern is not about low-cost products outside Europe, but cut-price competition in the home market coming mainly from within the European Community and against which there is no protection whatsoever.

Reports received by this association show that over recent months British fabricators have lost business worth well over £25m to foreign competitors. This work has been lost on price and price alone; quality and delivery are not in many cases orders have been placed at 30-50 per cent below United Kingdom prices.

As this materials content accounts for 35-60 per cent of the price of the finished plant, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that foreign fabricators are taking work at a loss or receiving covert help of some kind. Whatever the explanation, it is clear that British fabricators are suffering from determined efforts by foreign competitors to "buy" work in the United Kingdom to replace lost turnover in their own severely depressed home markets and that in effect steel is being dumped via finished products.

From Mr David Green

Sir, There can be a world of difference between the letter of the law and how it works—more than sufficient with employment protection law to account for the fact that Mr Mordisley and Mr Francis (November 15) unjust.

The only practical advice that one can give to any employer confronted with a claim for unfair dismissal by an employee of more than six months standing is that it will cost him upwards of £150 for his own and his lawyer's time to contest it—win or lose; and that it will therefore pay him, regardless of the merits, to pay a substantial sum to dispose of it.

The reasons are simple. The burden of proof rests upon the employer. Even the simplest case may require the attendance of several witnesses; the more complex case, involving a long history of events—and particu-

larly financial matters—may consume hours in preparation and days before the tribunal. If the employer is successful, he can expect no order for costs, save in the case where he can satisfy the tribunal that the applicant acted frivolously or vexatiously. Such cases are very rare, as are cases in which High Court actions are struck out on similar grounds.

Even if costs are awarded, they are awarded (unless agreed or fixed at a lump sum) on one of the county court scales which, particularly with the impact of inflation, yield substantially less than the actual costs incurred; and costs ordered are only recoverable to the extent that the party ordered to pay them has funds—which very frequently a dismissed ex-employee has not.

It may be that Parliament intended to place employers in a position in which they are on

Shirt workers in Northern Ireland

From Mr G. Dolits

Sir, It was of great interest to read of the bishop's concern (Letter, November 29) for Hong-kong.

We own five factories in Northern Ireland producing shirts, one of them in Strabane, which has a 40 per cent rate of unemployment. Could he not show some concern for the shirt workers in Northern Ireland with all their troubles? The EEC is not advocating a total ban of imports, but a cut in the future rate of growth.

It is very difficult to maintain sales when the market is being flooded with shirts for half our price. The bishop should advocate decent wages and working hours for the Hongkong workers so that sales would be on merit and not on sweated labour.

Yours faithfully,
G. DOLITS,
Chairman,
Burlington (Savile Row) Shirts Ltd.,
25 Savile Row,
London, W1X 1AA.

Inflation

From Mr Patrick Lawrence

Sir "Inflation's licked" some daily papers shriek. "It will no more the nation's vigour sap."

(Production's less than a the three-day week!) Which shows our true legeneration gap. Your obedient servant,
PATRICK LAWRENCE,
Globe House,
Fawley,
Wantage,
Oxfordshire,
November 17

Effect of employment protection law

From Mr David Green

Sir, There can be a world of difference between the letter of the law and how it works—more than sufficient with employment protection law to account for the fact that Mr Mordisley and Mr Francis (November 15) unjust.

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It may be that Parliament intended to place employers in a position in which they are on

The 231 year old British Linen Bank yesterday went back to work. Founded by Royal Charter in 1746

On 30th November 1977 the merchant banking operations, assets and whole undertaking of Bank of Scotland Finance Company Limited—already Scotland's largest merchant bank—were transferred to The British Linen Bank Limited.

We are pleased to announce the revival of this respected bank which has financed trade and supported industrial commerce for more than two centuries.

Acceptances Corporate Finance
Term Loans Deposits
Direct Investment Leasing

Governor: Thomas N. Risk, B.L.,
Deputy Governor: Thomas W. Walker, C.B.E., B.L.
Chief Executive: D. Bruce Pattullo, B.A.
Secretary: Joan Smith, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., Advocate

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هكذا من الاصل

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vehicle distribution ; plant hire,
and waste disposal ; fertilisers :
solid fuel ; insurance ; quarrying ;
shipping and warehousing.

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS LIMITED

Exporters and distributors overseas, export financiers, steel stockholders, importers

Principal U.K. Subsidiaries:
Adam & Harvey Limited
B. Ashworth & Co. (Overseas) Limited

Results for the year ended 31st March 1977

- ▷ Total Group profit before tax, including share of profit of an associated company, £1,449,000 (1976—£1,092,000).
- ▷ Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p before extraordinary items: 19.7p (1976—12.4p).
- ▷ Increased Final Dividend of 1.81658p per Ordinary Stock Unit (1976—1.5p) making 2.56658p for the year (1976—2.25p).

In his Statement, the Chairman, Major-General A. M. McKay, C.B., C.Eng., comments on the substantial profits growth achieved against a background of persistently difficult trading conditions both in the U.K. and abroad. In the current year the Company has continued to trade profitably and indications are that this year's results will be reasonably satisfactory.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Hall No. 3, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2 on Thursday, 22nd December 1977 at 12 noon.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, King's House, 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8DR.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

About turn as the optimists come back on Bank's MLR signal

Bearish indications from Wall Street and continued interest rate jitters prompted widespread marking down soon after the opening yesterday.

However, the lunchtime signal from the Bank of England that MLR should rise no further in the short-term prompted a quick about-turn that prompted dealers to start talking of a firm run-up to Christmas.

On the whole these optimists seemed to get the better of the pessimists who were still keeping one eye on the pay disputes and both equities and gilts managed to close with net gains.

But the feeling is now that more substantial backing is needed for the rally. Yesterday's movements were largely technical with business abysmally low throughout the equity market.

Gilts did show a certain amount of activity. Jobbers

Pilkington Brothers shares at 43p are splendidly firm ahead of interim figures due soon. Indeed they jumped 13p on Tuesday, more than recovering ground lost earlier. But the yield is a meagre 3.3 per cent and profits in the half year to September 30 may have risen only modestly from £27.6m to say, £30m or a bit more. If so, the shares' strength could be tested.

opened at overnight prices that drifted back until the signal from the Bank when the stocks rallied strongly to score gains of up to a point in the shorts and a quarter in the longs.

Interest rate uncertainty was also dominating property shares early on but the signal plus good final results from MEPC fuelled a strong rally. MEPC

itself closed 4p up at 118p while Land Securities gained 3p to 196p.

Industrial leaders mirrored the progress of gilts and finished at their best with ICI up 5p at 362p, Beecham up 7p at 625p and Fisons up 2p at 375p.

In engineering GKN followed suit with a gain of 6p to 284p and in the same sector speculative takeover talk continued to push John Brown ahead with a 5p gain to 258p.

All the excitement over base rates has had remarkably little effect on a quiet banks sector through Barclays showed some movement during the day as their board decision on rates was awaited and the share closed a penny up at 325p.

Williams & Glyn's made its base rate announcement and the parent company National and Commercial Banking Group whose results are due today, lost a penny to 70p.

In electricals Katal dipped sharply ahead of today's interim figures only to recover

and close unchanged at 207p. EMI with support from a broker's circular rose 6p to 216p.

Results are also due today from BP and the old shares added 2p to 920p in anticipation while the old lost 5p to 375p as the final call date approached. Oil Exploration ran into strong speculative demand and added 20p to 322p.

On the special situations front Allied Polymer, recently mentioned here, rose 6p to 38p before being suspended on bid talks with BTR. Reed & Smith returned from a suspension price of 35p to 63p on announcement of terms from St Regis and Yarrow added 7p to 280p on hopes of a good nationalization compensation deal.

Stores were firm on bullish indicators from the National Institute on consumer spending and British Home Stores added 7p to 227p while W. H. Smith rose 20p to 780p.

Boosted dividends offset

bearish trading forecasts from Avon Rubber to push the shares up 6p to 176p while better than expected figures from Rothmans were accom-

panied by a less than bullish statement and the shares lost 3p to 52p.

Equity turnover on November 29 was 556.5m (12.84 bar-gains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were BP partly paid, ICI, Oil Exploration, Shell, BP old, GUS, Beecham, Marks & Spencer, BATIS, Katal, Rank Organisation, Reed & Smith, national and Distillers.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Avon Rbr (F)	108.0(87.8)	5.4(2.4)	68.4(27.5)	5.2(4)	23/1	9.2(5)
Barker & Osan (F)	20.4(18.5)	0.02(0.31b)	0.35(0.79)	NB(NB)	—	—(NB)
Croft Mailing (F)	0.60(0.51)	0.04b(0.08)	—	0.8(1.2)	—	1.7(2.14)
Greaves Rtr (F)	—	0.18(0.1)	—	1.40(1.40)	—	—
W. Henshall (F)	1.2(0.98)	0.07(0.08)	—	NB(NB)	—	—(3)
Hm Brewery (F)	—	5.7(4.5)	—	3.8(—)	—	4.5(4.07)
Int Prop Dev (F)	2.3(7.8a)	0.06(1.3b)	0.6(1.7)	6.1(5.0)	1/2	—(12.1)
Russ Mather (F)	12.4(181.1)	0.02(0.02)	—	—	—	—
Lon Cremation (F)	—	1.4(1.1)	—	2.3(1.5)	—	—(6.5)
Manfield Bty (F)	—	8.5(5.4)	—	1.7(NB)	29/12	1.1(1.1)
MEPC (F)	—	0.08(0.06)	—	—	—	—(4.5)
Montipol Fp (F)	—	10.00(7.5c)	—	62.5(17.5)	5/1	62.5(17.5)
Pearling Tm (F)	—	37.9(29.1)	—	0.73(0.66)	26/1	2.08(1.8)
Rothmans Int (F)	853.0(754.7)	0.6(0.40)	—	NB(—)	—	—
Suffol Retail (F)	—	8.7(1.7b)	0.91(0.61b)	4.0(NB)	—	4.0(NB)
Sungei Besi (F)	—	0.08(0.04b)	10.6(7.7b)	—	—	—
Tilley Lamp (F)	1.5(1.0)	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on peace per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown gross. Dividends by the net of tax on peace per share. Dividends by the net of tax on peace per share. Dividends by the net of tax on peace per share.

MEPC

Confidence for the future

Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Gerald Thorley, T.D., F.R.I.C.S., for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

The recovery in the Group's profitability has continued. Profit before taxation of £9m has increased from £4.5m in 1976 and, after all charges including a £1.2m appropriation for depreciation of overseas properties, the earnings available to ordinary shareholders are £3.2m, a turn round of £3.2m. The taxation charge has decreased from 71% of gross profits in 1976 to 54% in 1977.

An interim dividend of 1.7p net per share payable on 29th December, 1977, has been declared which, together with the related tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 2.575p per share. This dividend will absorb £1.8m of the profit available and a final dividend will not be paid.

UNITED KINGDOM

Investment Portfolio

The investment portfolio continues to be the underlying strength of the Company and from it will come much of the future growth of income. This will be supplemented by the developments as they are completed and become income producing, and by the application of good property management.

Sales of investment properties in the United Kingdom have continued during the year and an amount of £12.7m has been realised. This has involved the sale of 99 properties at a surplus of £1.1m over book value. Our target sales for the current financial year has already been met and further sales will therefore only be made when dictated by the principles of good estate management.

Development Portfolio

During the last few years MEPC has retained a number of major sites, in excellent positions, which could not be developed because of the lack of two vital ingredients — a demand for the finished space at rentals which will support building costs and a willingness by institutional sources to fund development schemes. During 1977 we have had evidence that conditions are changing and in 1978 we expect that our pre-letting and funding requirements will be met to enable us to commence development of our sites in Guildford and Oxford Street.

We are conscious of the need to control the extent of our development programme to ensure that the simultaneous development of a number of sites does not bring with it the attendant risk which could arise from any downturn in the demand for space.

Residential Developments

Last year I said that we needed to achieve another £5m of sales to close the operations of MEPC Housing Ltd. and J. Sanders & Son (Holdings) Ltd. I am glad to tell you that we have reduced our holding in these subsidiaries to around £1m without having to make further provisions.

VALUATION OF PROPERTIES

The income earning part of the investment portfolio has been valued on the basis of open market value and it is our intention in the future to revalue this portfolio annually. The result of the valuation was a surplus over net book value attributable to MEPC of £6.6m which has been incorporated in the Balance Sheet.

This year we have been able to review our un-completed development sites by reference to their value at completion and have made provisions in respect of certain of them totalling £381m. The uplift in value expected from other sites and developments in progress has been disregarded.

SUMMARY OF GROUP REVENUE (in £'000's)

	1977	1976
Gross revenue	61,330	58,300
Revenue before taxation	8,972	5,460
Taxation	4,847	3,903
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	2,236	—981
NET DIVIDEND per share	1.7p	0.1p

FINANCE

Since 1974 the Group's principal financial priority has been to reduce its overall level of borrowings, particularly secured loans and loans denominated in currencies other than sterling. Overall, the loan capital of the Group has been reduced during the past year from £121m to £316m. Of this amount, £82m is attributable to the sale of MEPC Canada, £10m to net repayments in the UK and £12m in the US. It should be noted that both secured loans and also currency loans have fallen from just over 50% to just under 50% of the loan capital of the Group.

In addition to our continuing policy of reducing debt it has also proved possible to re-finance a number of large loans which became due for repayment during the past year.

The improvement in sterling during the year gave rise to a loss of £12m on conversion of our overseas assets for Balance Sheet purposes into sterling. A large part of this loss related to our Canadian subsidiary. It should be noted, however, that an improvement in sterling relative to foreign currencies favourably affected the Balance Sheet by reducing debt and the Revenue Account by reducing interest payments.

Contractual commitments have been reduced during the year from £29.5m to £16.8m of which £6.9m relates to Exchange Centre, Sydney. The reduction in contractual commitments has been achieved by the completion of our major developments in Hawaii, Birmingham and Frankfurt, by the sale of our Canadian subsidiary and also as a result of the progress made on Exchange Centre. We now intend to commence two major developments and one large refurbishment in the UK, the financing of which will be comfortably within the Company's resources.

The Balance Sheet shows cash and short term deposits of £13m available, a large portion of which results from the sale of our investment in Canada. In addition the Company's unsecured overdraft facilities have been increased during the year. Of the unsecured stand-by facility of US\$56m only \$5m has been drawn and it is unlikely to be further drawn upon in the current year.

OVERSEAS

Canada

Due to the unfavourable outlook in Canada your Board decided that a sale of its investment in MEPC Canadian Properties Ltd. would be beneficial. This sale, at C\$51 million representing a large premium over the quoted share price, was negotiated and completion took place in September. The sale has made funds available for the support of overseas investments, particularly for those developments to which we are already committed. The effect of the sale will also be a considerable reduction in short term debt and elimination of much of the mismatching of foreign assets and liabilities.

United States

In 1974 we established a subsidiary in the

United States by the purchase of the Gamble and Norman commercial centres in Minneapolis — 650,000 square feet of office accommodation and 24 acres of undeveloped land. Since that time development of 10 acres has been undertaken and two office buildings totalling 100,000 square feet are on a long lease. The net dividend is 10p. Two further office buildings totalling 116,000 square feet are planned and are scheduled for completion during 1978. In Chicago the Company also owns two fully let warehouse-investments comprising 105,000 square feet.

In January 1977, through our US associated company, we acquired a shopping mall of 700,000 square feet at Rochester, Minnesota and the Fosbury Tower, a 173,000 square feet office block in central Minneapolis. Both investments are fully let.

In Hawaii, the Discovery Bay apartment development of 667 units is 62% sold and contracts for other sales representing 25% have been exchanged.

Our policy for the United States is one of cautious growth.

Australia

Following our decision last year to build out Exchange Centre, the construction is progressing on scheduled time and cost, and the 22 storey main tower was topped out earlier this year. The Sydney Stock Exchange will occupy 80,000 square feet and it is well ahead with the fitting out programme. The investment properties of our Australian subsidiary, mainly comprising office and industrial properties in Sydney and Melbourne, are fully let.

E.E.C.

Progress has been made on letting the office space in Manhattan Center, Brussels, two-thirds of which is now occupied. The Eurobus, Frankfurt office development was completed in May 1977 and is now 60% let. The office market in Frankfurt is still over-supplied and the remainder of the letting may be slow. Conditions are still not appropriate for the development of our site in Munich for which consent has been granted for a shop and office complex. Our office property in the Champs-Élysées, Paris, has been refurbished and relet on a profitable basis.

The Irish investment portfolio continues to be fully let except for our newly completed development at Dun Laoghaire, where five of the one hundred and four shop units remain vacant.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

I cannot stress too greatly that the more profitable position of the Group is largely due to the hard work and skill exercised by members of the staff and particularly to the managers upon whom we rely for the enthusiastic execution of Board policy and much original thought. The concurrent problems of inflation, salary restraint and the excessively high levels of direct taxation in the United Kingdom have not only reduced the standard of living of managers but, more harmfully, have in some cases brought about personal financial anxieties which could detract from business efficiency. This problem has at last been acknowledged by the politicians and a solution is urgently required.

THE FUTURE

Whilst we still have certain problems to solve, the Company has demonstrated that it has the skill and financial resources to deal with these problems. We are confident, therefore, that provided there is reasonable economic stability, your Company will continue to improve significantly its profitability in the coming year.

De Beers to lift diamond output 13 pc

De Beers is planning to increase its total output of diamonds by some 13 per cent with expansion at its Kimberley and Namaqualand mines. The major increase will be at Finsch mine at a cost of £40m and which will be completed to be completed in late 1979.

In Namaqualand the small Langhoogte mine is to be re-opened at a cost of £3.6m. Production at the rate of 60,000 carats a year is expected to begin next July. Development of the Kogelvaal mine to produce 500,000 carats a year is on schedule and is also due to come to production next July.

Meanwhile, a De Beers subsidiary is to spend £5m on a comprehensive aerial survey over 100,000 square kilometres in Namibia to the east of Windhoek.

New capital issues

in November

Midland Bank says that the amount of "new money" raised in the United Kingdom by the issues in November was £214.0m, an increase of £33.2m on the total for October. With one month of the present year remaining, £1,427.9m has been raised so far, compared with £1,435.7m for the same period of 1976.

Public bodies accounted for only £38.0m of the total. Eight local authorities raised £3.8m by bond issues, the lowest monthly figure since December, 1973.

The amount raised by companies rose sharply from £75.2m in October to £176.0m in November.

Turnround sweetener

from Barker & D

Confectionery and retailing group Barker & Debon has returned to profit at the half way stage after over three years of losses. In the six months to October 1, the group made a pre-tax profit of £22,000 against a £511,000 loss. Last time, on turnover up from £20.4m to £20.8m. Most of the improvement has come on the confectionery side which is now trading in the black and losses in the retail division have been reduced.

Another record year

in sight at Helene

Pret a Porter, wholly-owned subsidiary of fashion and leisure wear group Helene of London, has entered into a trading arrangement with David Bagler, a company controlled by Mr. Bagler himself, for the manufacture of women's clothing. Any credit facilities which arise are to be supplied by the parent company Helene.

According to Mr. Bagler recently appointed to the board, Helene is on course for record profits again this year. In 1976 pre-tax profits of Helene amounted to a record £807,000.

Hanson Trust

goes shopping

The chairman of Empire Plantations and Investments, Mr. George Whitaker, forecasts a record tea crop in the current year. Coupled to very tight financial control this has lessened the impact of increased wages and escalating costs, he tells shareholders in the annual report. Empire was the subject of a fan advance takeover bid by Caparo Investments earlier this year. Shareholders representing only 5.6 per cent of the equity accepted



The British Petroleum Company Limited £1 Ordinary Stock Units

Offer for Sale by the
Bank of England
on behalf of H. M. Government

Final Instalment Due 6th December 1977

The Bank of England wish to remind holders of Letters of Acceptance that the final instalment of £5.45 per £1 Stock unit MUST BE PAID BY 3 P.M. ON 6TH DECEMBER. Cheques for the amounts due, made payable to the Bank of England and crossed "Not negotiable — BP Stock" must be forwarded, with the LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE, to the APPROPRIATE RECEIVING BANK whose name and address appears in the box on the right-hand side of page 1 of the Letters of Acceptance.

Registration of Renunciation

The attention of holders of renounced Letters of Acceptance, i.e., those with Form X completed or marked "Original duly renounced", is drawn to Instruction 5 on page 3 of the Letter: it is essential that both Declaration (A) — where appropriate — and Declaration (B) at the foot of page 4 are signed before fully paid Letters are lodged for registration of renunciation on or before 15th December.

Lake & Elliot, Ltd.

VALVES, STEEL CASTINGS
ENGINEERING

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st July, 1977

	1977	1976
Group Turnover	£18,247m	£18,290m
Group Trading Profit	£1,121m	£2,027m
Earnings per Ordinary Share		
—before extraordinary item	4.44p	10.62p
—after extraordinary item	2.58p	10.62p
Ordinary Dividend	3.4914p	3.4385p

"Although the long term market prospects remain obscure, there has recently been a considerable improvement in the order position, the effect of which should be felt in the second half year. The Company, therefore, having taken drastic action to recover its momentum, faces the future with confidence tempered with prudence."

Peter Lake, Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Middlesex House, 29 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7HR

Bank Leumi Base Rate

Bank Leumi (U.K.) Ltd. announces that, with effect from Wednesday, November 30th, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is increased from 6% to 7%. The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts on sums below £1,000 is increased to 4%. For larger amounts interest rates will be quoted on application.



BANK LEUMI (U.K.) LTD.

Registered Office: 4-7 Woodstock Street, London W1A 2AF
Telephone: 01-629 1205

KCA International

As announced with the Company results and following approval by shareholders

Berry Wiggins & Co. Limited
has been renamed

KCA International Limited

The Company Head Office remains at:
9th Floor, Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square, London W1X 6BY
and the Registered Office at:
Kingsnorth-on-the-Medway, Hoo, Rochester,
Kent ME3 9ND.

هذا من الاصل

FINANCIAL NEWS

Asset growth at Cumulus tops sector average

By Alison Mitchell
Cumulus Investment Trust is a company with its feet firmly on the ground. In the year to September 30 last, the net asset value a share rose 57 per cent to 42p against a sector average of around 27 per cent.

Pre-tax revenue more than doubled in the period from a previous £25.7m to £56.3m partly as a result of the two subsidiary companies turning in better performance. The income from the investment trust itself also increased, according to Mr John Smith, chairman.

During the year its offshoot Cumulus Systems moved from Nottingham to London and the subsequent expense and disruption hit profits from this side. However, the chairman forecasts an improvement in the current year and promises shareholders that the group will attempt to halve profits on this side from £8,000 to a minimum of £12,500.

Cumulus Systems has developed various computer programmes for financial management which show considerable promise.

During the year the company repaid its £700,000 loan and has reduced its holdings in the United States to less than 3 per cent of the £2.4m portfolio.

At the time of the repayment the investments were worth more than the loan.

The dividend has been raised from 1.07p to 1.21p which on a share price yesterday which held steady at 25p gives a gross yield of 4.7 per cent.

Meanwhile Lord Dartmouth, chairman of Scottish Cities Investment Trust, expects a further increase in dividend income from investment in the current 12 months to September 30 next. However, he tells shareholders in the annual report that this improvement will be partly offset by the reduction in interest rates.

Avon Rubber slows sharply but more-than-doubles total

By Our Financial Staff
Avon Rubber's recovery rate slowed significantly in the second half just as the group had predicted at the interim stage.

Even so profits continued to move ahead at a rate of around 50 per cent to provide a more-than-doubled total of £14m for the full-year to October 1.

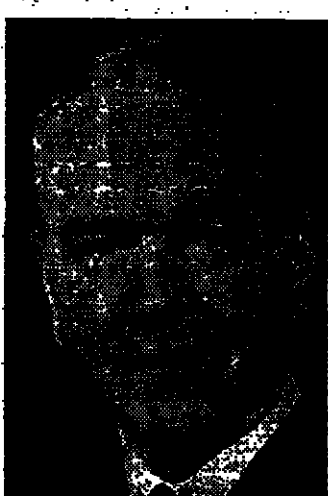
The swift return to record profits after the losses of more than £500,000 is celebrated with an 80 per cent dividend boost.

Shareholders payments were cut back in 1975 and the group has now obtained Treasury permission to restore them to the earlier levels and add the 10 per cent maximum.

A final payment of 7.99p gross takes the total to 14.05p gross against the 7.50p of last year.

Shares of the Wiltshire-based tyres and industrial products group jumped 5p to 176p yesterday despite some fairly pessimistic comments about current trading from the directors.

During the first two months



Mr H. C. I. Rogers, chairman

of the current financial year they say Avon has experienced increased competition in the tyre business. This is expected to continue up to 1978.

At the same time continued

disruption of production schedules through industrial disputes in the car industry make any forecast for the full year particularly difficult.

But the group says that its increasing efficiency and broader base should enable them to maintain the trend of improving profits.

This year's pre-tax profit is struck after a depreciation charge of £2.3m against £1.9m and consolidation of £115,255 against under £5,000 from associate companies.

Total turnover was 23 per cent ahead at 108m.

The group's decision not to provide for deferred tax resulting in a charge this time of under 14 per cent gear up the attributable profits improvement. As a result earnings per share jump from 27.5p to 68.4p.

Avon Rubber has remained on a strong recovery track since it became one of the worst casualties of the United Kingdom car industry downsizing two years ago.

Rights issue and bumper results from Kenning

By Tony May
Kenning Motor Group, one of the country's biggest British Leyland distributors and hire fleets, plans to raise £3.8m by a one-for-four rights issue. At the same time it estimates that pre-tax profits for the year to end September leap 43 per cent to up £7m for the first time.

The news clipped in from the share price to leave it at 76p compared with the rights price of 62p. Mr George Kenning, the chairman, notes that the group last made a rights issue, to raise £3m, in 1969 when profits stood at £1.8m. Once again the group is spending the money on expansion, and also to keep a good balance between shareholders' funds and borrowings.

Loan stockholders will be offered the issue at 52p the basis of one share for every £2.80 of loan stock held.

Commenting on the £7m profit forecast, Mr Kenning says: "Providing £50,000 to fund a small increase in the pensions of retired members, and also meet possible future increases in deferred pensions."

The board plans to recommend a gross dividend of 6.28p compared with 5.7p a year ago. The new shares will not rank

MEPC reinstates its dividend after 64 pc jump to near-£9m

By Richard Allen
MEPC's reputation as one of the best recovery stocks in the sector was further enhanced by news of a 64 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to just under £9m in the year to September 30.

The figure is struck after a £5.2m transfer from reserves to cover outgoings on development properties and a much reduced £482,000 transfer for the Discovery Bay housing development, was above market estimates.

News of an interim and total dividend of 2.58p gross after two follow years provided a source for further enthusiasm and the shares jumped several pence.

After the over-expansion of

the early 1970s MEPC at last has managed to stabilize its financial position. Borrowings have been reduced from last year's £421m to £316m with £82m of the reduction being directly attributable to the recent sale of MEPC Canada.

A further £10m is due to net repayments in the United Kingdom and £12m in the United States due chiefly to sales of Discovery Bay Apartments.

Meanwhile the group has taken advantage of better conditions to carry out a revaluation of properties on the more cautious open market basis and this has thrown up the need for provisions of £38.25m for uncompleted sites and developments.

Net assets per share as a result are shown at 166p.

Sales of investment properties in the United Kingdom have realized £12.7m and Mr Gerald Thorley, chairman, says that the target for sales for the current year has already been met.

The massive development portfolio is expected to continue providing a drag on profitability but there have been signs that conditions are at least stabilizing. During 1978 the group expects that pre-taxing and funding requirements will be met to enable starting major developments in Guildford and Oxford Street.

Contractual commitments in the meantime have been reduced from £29.5m to £16.8m, of which just under £7m relates to the Exchange Centre in Sydney.

Tighter margins again put check on Alfred Dunhill

By Nicholas Hirst
Margins continued to narrow at Alfred Dunhill, the international luxury cigarette lighter, pipes and men's toiletries group, in the six months to end-September.

Sales advanced by 25 per cent from £17.2m to £21.2m while profits were up from £4.3m to £4.6m, an increase of only 8 per cent. In the whole of last year profits rose 27 per cent although sales again grew faster, with a rise of 51 per cent.

The figures for this half-year include the results of Montblanc-Simplo, a West German pen-making company, in which Dunhill bought a 50 per cent

holding with £1.58m. This first-time contribution includes five months from the German company, but these are not quantified.

An interim dividend of 4.03p gross is declared, costing a total £223,504, a 10 per cent gain, the maximum permitted under the counter-inflation legislation, on the 3.6p gross paid last year.

Because of the change in income tax rates shareholders will also be getting a net 0.0822p a share for last year, bringing last year's dividend up to the total permitted gross distribution.

Alfred Dunhill is 51 per cent owned by Rothmans International whose half-year results were also produced yesterday.

Indonesian funding for \$500m

Jakarta — Bank Indonesia confirms that negotiations are advanced for a \$500m replacement financing loan for the Republic of Indonesia acting through Bank Indonesia, the central bank.

This transaction has Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York acting as agent for a syndicate of international banks. It is being arranged in connection with the proposed prepayments in March, 1978 of the balances then outstanding of two loans amounting to \$850m raised in June and November, 1975.

In light of the marked and continuing improvement in the Republic of Indonesia's balance of payments and foreign exchange reserves, Bank Indonesia has decided it would be appropriate to replace these funds by a new loan.

The terms and conditions would reflect the present economic and financial strength of the Republic.

The amount outstanding under the two existing loans has already been reduced from \$850m to \$790m as a result of scheduled amortization. By the time of the expected effective date of the replacement financing in March, 1978, the outstanding loans will, in the course of normal amortization, be further reduced to \$670m.

More Financial News on P. 24

£5m loan for Argos as profits soar

Coinciding with the announcement of record turnover and profits for the year ended November 5, 1977, for Argos catalogue showrooms, its joint managing director, Mr Joe Phillips, gave details of a £5-million loan by Barclays Bank to finance the next stage of the company's new showroom development plan.

He stated that Argos would have an estimated profit of some £750,000 on a £50-million turnover for 1976-77, after

accounting for the development costs of the 13 showrooms opened in the year.

These forecast results compare with a turnover of £26.4m for 1975-76, and profits of £55,000, again, taking into account development costs of the 11 showrooms opened that year.

In giving details of the Barclays loan, he explained that the agreement was for borrowing facilities of up to £5m to finance the next stage of Argos' showroom development.

By the end of next year, Argos plans to add to its current network of 65 showrooms a further 20, and the Barclays loan will boost the company's growing fund of retained profits set aside for future development.

The provision of bank financing will help Argos stay on course to its aim of 100 showrooms by 1980. Mr Phillips added that Argos was likely to reach a £70m turnover next year, with a corresponding increase in profits.

Business appointments

New chief at Bemrose Corporation

Mr Gordon Brunton, managing director and chief executive of The Thomson Organisation is to succeed Sir Max Bemrose as non-executive chairman of the Bemrose Corporation when he retires in May. Sir Max will remain on the board as a non-executive director.

Mr Alan Miller has become chairman of The Low & Bonar Group, succeeding Mr Ian Low, who has retired from the board.

Professor Sir Hermann Bondi is to chair the Department of Energy's Offshore Energy Technology Board. He is chief scientist of the Department of Energy.

Mr J. C. Fraser, managing director of Dunlop Holdings, has joined the Industrial Development Advisory Board.

Mr Guy Talbot has been made a director of SMI United Kingdom.

Mr J. J. Potter has become non-executive director of Ash and Lacy.

Jack Janus Sudin has succeeded Mr J. G. Richardson as chairman of Tronoh Mines, Tronoh Mines Malaysia, Ayer Hitam Tin Dredging, Ayer Hitam Tin Dredging Malaysia, Sungai Besi Mines, Sungai Besi Mines Malaysia and Southern Tronoh Tin Dredging. Mr Richardson remains a director.

Mr Anthony Jordan and Mr John Saborne have joined the board of Aveling Mantell.

Mr Nicholas Cosh is now on the board of Charterhouse Japhet. Mr David Roberts and Mr Peter Willan have been made directors of Charterhouse Petroleum Development.

Mr A. B. Stokes has been made a director of A. E. Edmonds Walker.

Mr Peter Brubrook and Mr Peter Scott have become directors of Oley Printing Group.

Mail-order setback at CGA

In spite of turnover being maintained at £10.7m in the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits of the London-based Country Gentlemen's Association dipped from £40,000 to £5,000.

The board explains that mainly because of a further downturn on the mail order trading side, the group did not reach the budgeted profit for the half-year. It is "concerned".

At the position and the group's managing director has taken control of the trading section to rectify matters.

The group is also installing a computer. Although this increases costs in the current year, the benefits will start to accrue next year.

The trading section supplies goods for the garden, house, estate, farm and members' personal use on a discount basis.

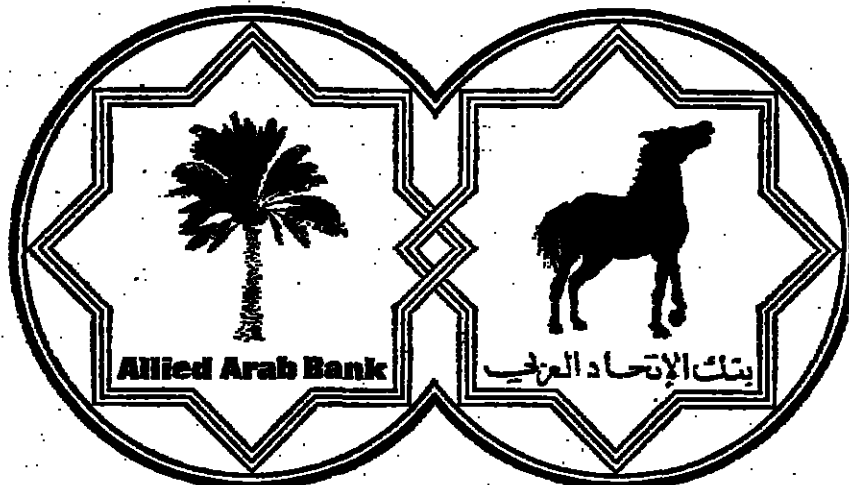
BASE RATE

With effect from the close of business on 1st December 1977 and until further notice TSB Base Lending Rate will be 7% per annum



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NIGERIA

Military men seek to clean out Augean stables

by Peter Hill

Empty oil drums, piled the gap between the seven rough hewn stakes of a makeshift execution dais on Bar Beach.

The elite of Lagos who reside on Victoria Island and retreat to the curving expanse of sand at weekends to bathe and lounge in the sun have become inured to the crackle of rifle fire on a Saturday morning. Death by firing squad has become as much a part of life in Lagos as the appalling and senseless deaths in road accidents.

When executions take place thousands of people make the journey to Bar Beach to witness the fate that awaits any armed robber who is tracked down. But the extent to which these executions represent an effective deterrent rather than a spectacle is open to question. The armed robberies persist. Nigeria's military rulers, who are committed to establishing a "disciplined, fair, just and humane African society" in the country before they hand over power to a civilian regime in less than two years, are unlikely to halt the executions.

The next 18 months or so in the period to October 1979, when free elections are held for the first time since 1966, will be the most crucial and critical since the civil war which tore the country asunder.

Nigeria is a vast and populous nation and, thanks to oil, far richer than many of its neighbours on the African continent. But the gap between the haves and the have-nots, rather than closing, is perceptibly widening. The Federal Military Government has taken steps to ensure that the ostentation which characterized the life-style of many of those

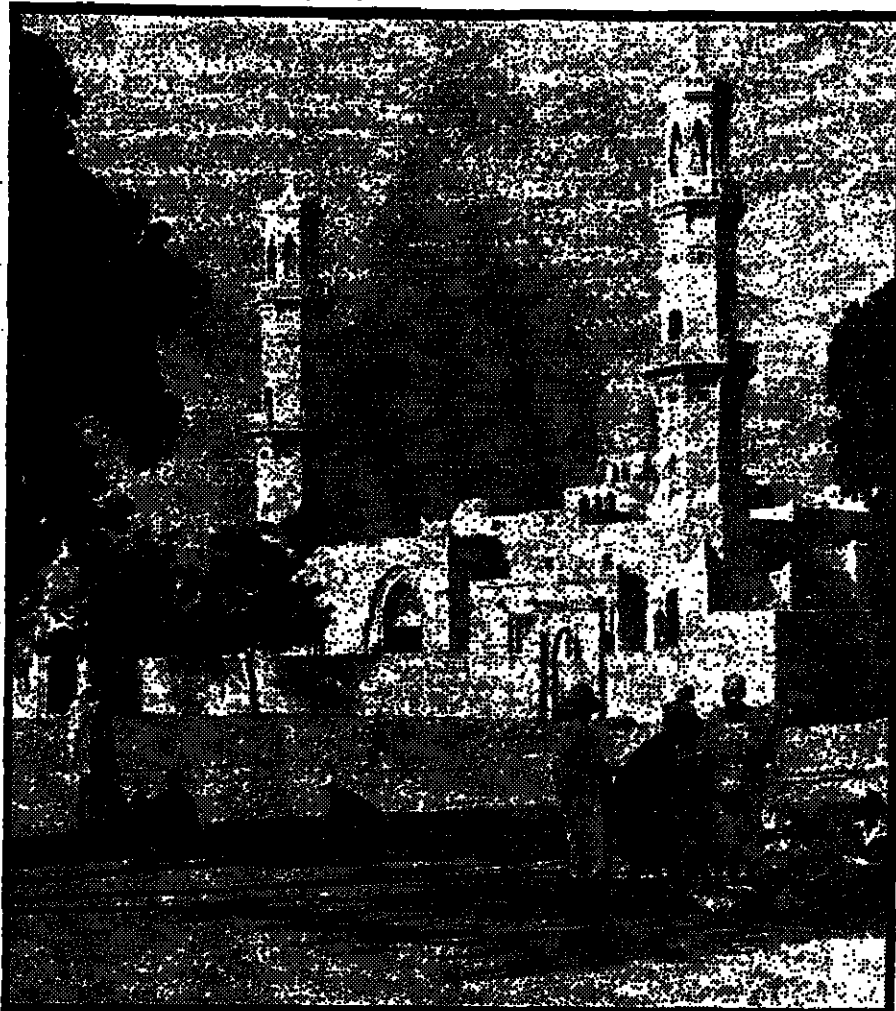
Nigerians who had become far on the back of the country's economic boom was contained.

The military men who assumed power after the deposing of General Gowon, and who were set back by the assassination of General Murtala Muhammad in February last year, have sought to bring about a new sense of direction in Nigeria. Under the Gowon regime the country had drifted. The third development plan, its vast spending programme linked to the expectation of steadily rising revenues from crude oil, was quickly undermined.

The scope and emphasis of the plan have since been reviewed and new priorities established. Because of inflation the plan will cost more to carry out and it is doubtful whether more than about 40 per cent of the projects will be completed before the end of the plan period in 1980.

The military men who govern Nigeria have by their words and actions sought to clean out the country's Augean stables. Chronic port congestion and the great cement scandal have been tackled purposefully and although there are still considerable shortcomings, the improvements have been marked.

Nigeria's Civil Service, a byword for indolence, inefficiency and corruption, has been purged with thousands of people being prematurely retired or dismissed, from lowly office messengers to top government officials. But the purges, which initially caught the public's attention and support (although not necessarily for the most altruistic reasons), have created a vacuum. Promotion prospects are brighter but experience has suffered as a result and corruption remains.



Scenes from regional life: an old mosque in Kano in the north and two men playing the game in Oyo in the west.

Indeed many consider that it is worse than ever. Certainly the soldiers who apply Nigeria's foreign exchange restrictions to the letter are still relieving departing travellers of surplus nakra in transactions which take place in airport corners.

Local government reforms have been carried through, although the efficacy of this measure will not be appreciated until the return to civilian rule. New states have been created in an attempt to cut across tribal boundaries. Plans have been approved for the construction of a new Federal capital.

But the most important

feature of the regime of the beginning of October. Political activity, however, remains proscribed until the beginning of October next year and the Obasanjo regime has made it perfectly clear that it does not intend to allow political parties and meetings to take place in advance of that date. This will be only 12 months before direct elections take place—too short a time in the view of many Nigerians to ensure that the civilian regime is as effective as many hope it will be.

In a government statement last month the regime noted: "It has been observed that some people have been organising political meetings

in the country under the guise of social associations, solidarity, unions and leaders of thought through which they engage in political activities". The official statement also observed that it had received word that Nigerians had been seeking alliances and making political contacts—activities that would not be allowed before the ban was lifted.

Clandestine meetings have taken place and will continue as the months tick by to October, 1978. Speakers in the Assembly have shown that they are prepared to speak out candidly on a wide range of topics. This has no doubt appealed to the 40

million or so electors who will cast their votes in October 1979.

In a country as diverse as Nigeria, where factionalism and tribalism are endemic, can any civilian regime survive for any length of time? Is black Africa's largest army—of more than 200,000 men—going to return quietly to the barracks and remain there after more than 12 years in power?

These fundamental questions cannot be answered with any degree of certainty. But most observers strongly believe that, by its actions so far, the Obasanjo regime remains committed to backing out of the limelight and

that the possibility of a return to military government could well act as a check against the excesses that characterized the Nigerian political scene immediately after independence.

Whether the tribal jealousies and rivalries can be effectively subsumed beneath the slogan "Nigeria first" is even more difficult to assess. Certainly tribal allegiances and identification remain strong. Typical comments from educated businessmen can perhaps best illustrate the difficulties.

"My first allegiance is to my tribe", one Yoruba businessman said, while another confided that he put Nigeria

first and looked forward to the return of a democratically elected government— "provided that it is not dominated by northerners".

For the present, however, Nigeria's military rulers, who have increasingly become involved in foreign affairs, most notably over the future of Rhodesia and South Africa, have difficulties of their own to deal with at home. They include continuing high levels of inflation, balance of payments difficulties and the responsibility of forging ahead with the development plan, all of which will have to be shouldered by a civilian administration eventually.

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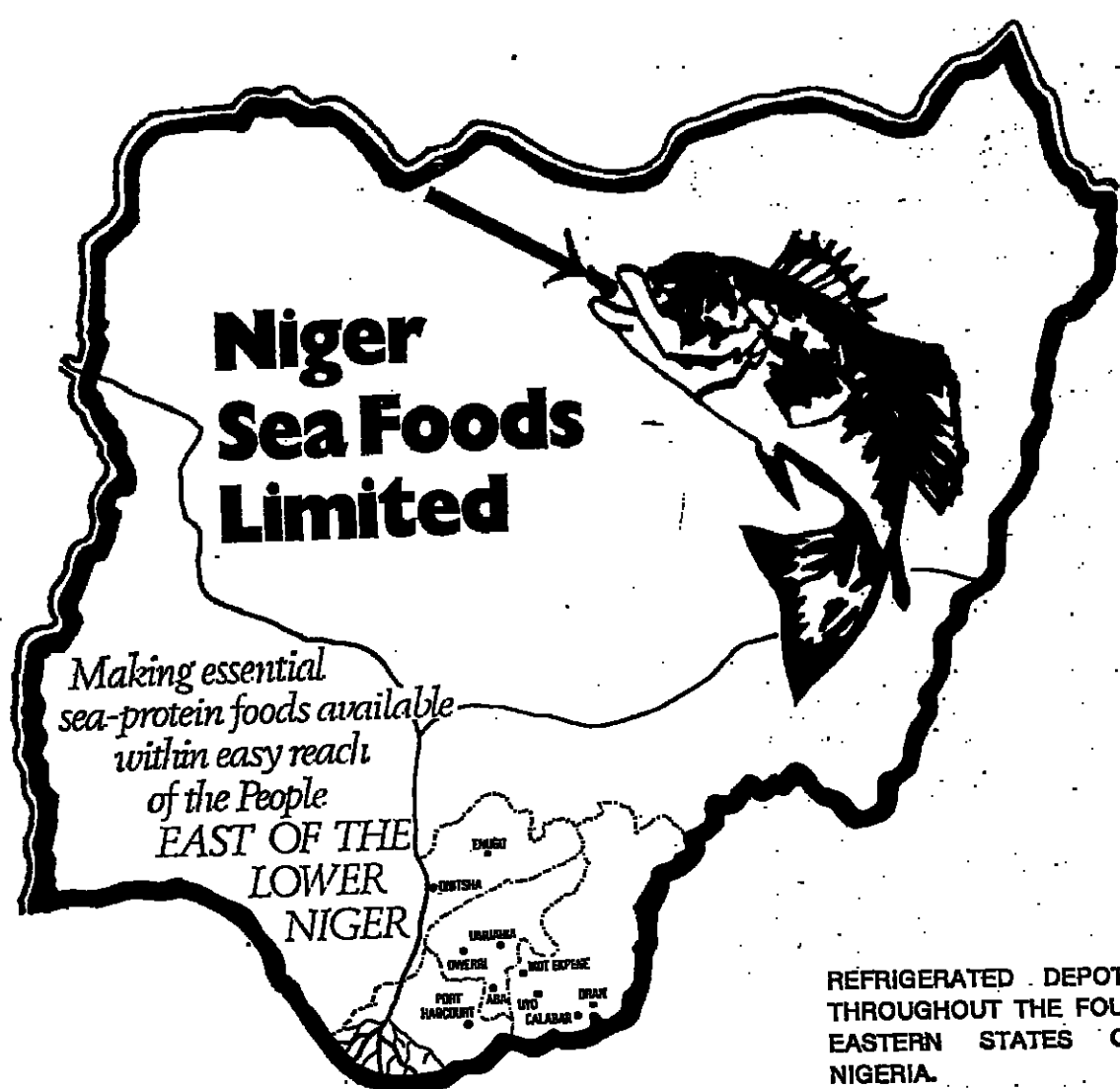
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reforms are crucial in return to civilian rule

by David Williams

Last December and January adult suffrage elections were held throughout the federation for local government bodies of a new kind—multi-purpose, single-tier institutions, which were to be called local governments. The military regime regarded their establishment as a "crucial element in the political programme" for return to civilian rule, designed to "stimulate democratic self-government and to encourage initiative and leadership potential".

The new authorities have "complete and self-contained budgets" and can delegate specific functions to subordinate councils still financed entirely by the local governments. Subordinate councils are not another "tier" of government but are part of the same "tier" as the local governments.

To become both "effective and local", the Government decided, the new bodies should serve populations of between 150,000 and 800,000 people, the case of big towns. With populations of fewer than 150,000 in

300,000, staffing and overhead cost would be serious problems, while if authorities were too big they would produce big, sluggish bureaucracies.

It was recognized that population densities in some areas could be so low that state governments should be allowed to establish authorities covering fewer than 150,000 people, though only with the permission of Lagos, which the authorities were to be co-terminous with previous administrative divisions.

A wide range of functions is mandatory for the authorities and a wider range, such as agricultural extension work and primary education, can be given to them by the states. They are the only authorities now recognized below state level.

A proportion of members, some by virtue of traditional office, can sit on the authorities, and in some northern states the governors have appointed the maximum number allowed.

Perhaps the biggest innovation is the abolition of provincial and divisional administration—the DO

who in some states had in effect been running local government, have been with-
drawn either to the minis-
tries of local government or to the new authorities.

The British system of local government, whose introduction was so optimistically attempted in colonial days, is now to be supreme, even in northern states, where the many of the emirates have been split into a number of self-contained local govern-
ments while smaller ones have joined others in a single authority.

In the emirates, however, the apical system of district and village heads is wisely retained, thus giving traditional rulers and their councils some say in the appointment of the new local governments. But the French prefectural system, which under Nigerian states were tending to be abandoned, has been retained as a school for democracy and political responsibility.

So much importance did the soldiers attach to local government reform in a country where many experi-

ments have founded that lines says was one reason for local government failure in the past. The federal Government clearly hoped that this time local government councils would not become the playthings of parties, nor their staff and workers the prey of politicians.

No parties were allowed to operate in the elections to the local governments, which in some areas were "indirect". And as long as military rule lasts, parties can be kept out of local government. But the new authorities have wider functions and bigger funds than the old (the federal Government itself for the first time underwriting their expenditure). They will be more attractive for politicians than were the former councils.

A civilian government will not be able to impose any restriction on party politics. And many in Nigeria ask whether failure is endemic in modern local government in Nigeria. What will happen when the paternal protection of the soldiers disappears?

The author is editor, West Africa.

NEW CAPITAL

Expensive proposal may be cheaper in long run

One important decision taken by the military Government which its successor will have to implement is to move the federal capital from Lagos.

The decision was not taken just because of the city's famous traffic jams, which should soon be greatly eased, Lagos, it was decided, could not remain the federal capital for several other reasons. For example, there is a shortage of over 40,000 houses; perhaps 300,000 people have no regular habitation. Some dwellings are little more than hovels and the occupants pay outrageous rents. Public transport is inadequate and costly.

The panel, under Mr Justice Aguda, set up by the Government to make recommendations for a site for a capital, noted that only a small part of Lagos "had any semblance of a modern sewage system"; to establish a system would require demolition of most buildings, it was meant to serve Lagos was "one of the dirtiest capitals in the world".

For several months each year "it becomes impossible for pedestrians to walk along some major streets... as water in the streets will be knee-deep". The city's topography makes surface draining very difficult. Only a completely new telephone system inside the city, requiring enormous structural alterations and even demolition, could improve communications.

Demand for water now exceeds that formerly protected for the year 2,000. Food of all kinds, firewood, indigenous building materials, are all made more costly by the need to bring them to Lagos from far away.

The outstanding problem road.

of Lagos, however, is shortage of land for expansion. This makes enormously expensive reclamation of land necessary in the capital territory of a country which has some 356,000 sq miles.

If there were no other problems, Mr Justice Aguda's panel concluded, acquiring land immediately adjoining Lagos was now so expensive that even the dizzy cost of establishing a new capital would be less formidable. Lagos will have to remain the commercial centre and main port.

Why did the panel choose for a new capital an area south of the ancient town of Abuja, almost in the middle of Nigeria, in Niger state?

Criteria suggested by the panel for the capital territory, which embraces no fewer than 3,000 sq miles, included, first, "centrality" which the new site certainly has. Other qualifications were: health and climate; land availability; water supply; "easy access possibilities"; security; existence of building materials locally; low population density; power resources; drainage; soil; physical planning convenience; "ethnic accord".

Climatically the new site shows a great improvement on Lagos, and it has agreeable scenery. The area is thinly populated; it is not intended to include in the capital territory the pleasant Abuja town, with its great tradition of craftsmanship (here Michael Cardew developed the great talent of the potter, Ladi Kwali).

A traditional potter's village in the north-west.

Below: the Lagos airport

Water supply is adequate, as are land communications with the rest of Nigeria. Air communications could be established easily.

Local availability of building material will depend largely on uncompleted projects, such as the proposed iron and steel complex.

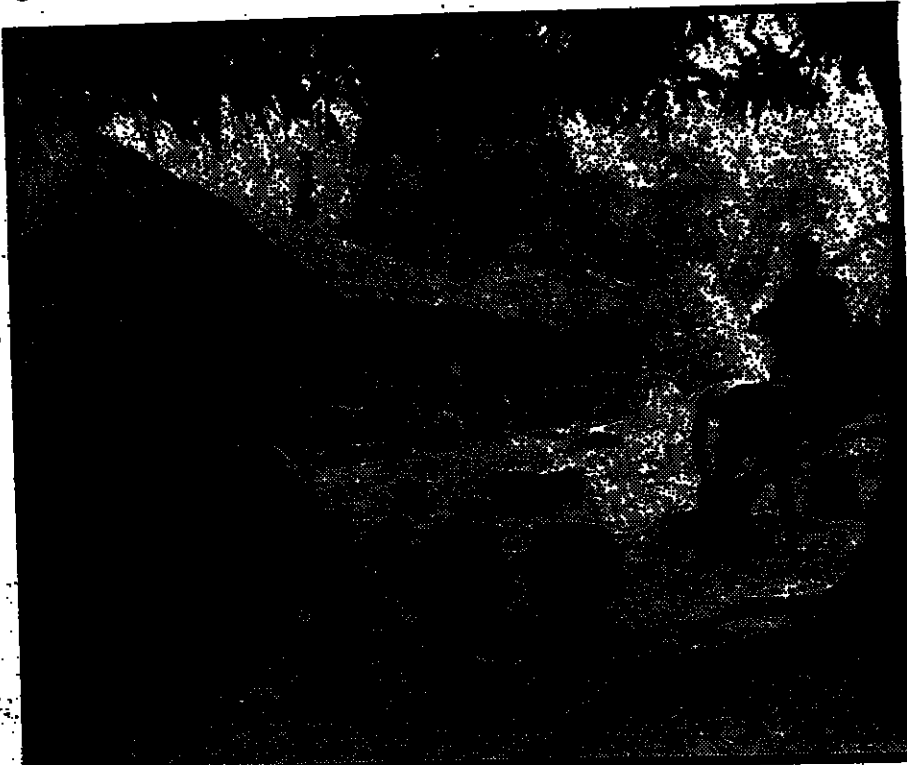
There should be no problem in bringing electric power, and the new capital could be provided both with a first-class external telecommunications system and good links with other parts of the country. The new site also passes the drainage test.

"Ethnic accord" is a political way of saying that the new capital should lie outside the territory of any of Nigeria's main ethnic groups. The site is ideal in this respect as a great variety of small groups live in the area, which is entirely outside the areas of Nigeria's principal peoples.

Cost remains the great problem. The panel observed that "a sizable portion of the national income" would be committed to building the capital in the 10 to 15 years envisaged, but without a devastating effect on the economy as a whole. In fact, because of the need to spend vast sums in Lagos if the capital is not moved, and of the economic activity which building a new capital could foster, the panel argued that there was a "cost-advantage" in their plan.

Supporters of the new capital see in it a new political symbol for Nigeria. In the end that will be the real test.

D.W.



هكذا من الاصل

On this and the next page Peter Hill examines steps to improve links with the outside world and between different parts of the country

PORTS

Bureaucracy rather than congestion now causes delays

A transformation has taken place in Lagos harbour. Two years ago the congestion at Nigeria's principal port was chronic; hundreds of ships swarming at anchor for months, awaiting berths to unload their cargoes. Now, ships are busy day and night pushing lighters from ocean-going ships anchored to buoys in the harbour to the new Kiri-Kiri lighter terminal on Badagry Creek. The insatiable demand for goods that was created by the country's economic boom is much nearer being satisfied than seemed possible at the height of the standstill.

Priority continues to be given to increasing the efficiency of the port by building new facilities in the Lagos-Apapa area. One of the most spectacular improvements has been the construction of a new 10-berth facility at Tin Can Island on the creek, at a cost of N185m. Fifteen months ago the island was a swampy wilderness; now the new facility, with its warehouses and gleaming green cranes, is slowly moving into operation (although not as quickly as many shipping companies would like) and further relieving pressure on the port.

Recently Lagos-Apapa — with more than 70 berths — has been handling more than 700,000 tonnes of cargo a month. When Tin Can Island is fully operational the figure is expected to rise to some one million tonnes a month. Nearly 50 per cent of the cargoes are being discharged in lighters, the traditional method of cargo handling at Lagos-Apapa.

The Nigerian Ports Authority, which faced the task of alleviating the choking of the port in the wake of the great cement scandal, has achieved substantial progress. But purges among its staff, as in other branches of the Civil Service in Nigeria in the campaign

against corruption, have left their mark. Promotion prospects have been enhanced, but often people selected to fill middle management positions lack the necessary skills and a vacuum is created, which is already showing signs of producing further difficulties. The Tin Can Island development, undertaken by West German civil engineering contractors, at present lacks back-up facilities and customs clearance, and this hampers its effective use.

The shipping and forwarding industry complains that the NPA is now so preoccupied with the number of ships waiting to unload that officials do not take account of the type of vessels involved in the hold-up. There is evidence that because of fears about further congestion, the NPA is refusing the issue of ships' entry notices to both conference and non-conference lines in an endeavour to keep the number of ships at anchor at a level acceptable to the Government. The ship's entry notice system is acknowledged to be a reasonable way of restoring order — provided it is organized and deployed sensibly. But because of the present policy, a number of ships bound for Lagos-Apapa have been forced to anchor off other ports on the coast while waiting for the NPA to issue the notice.

Ship operators are also concerned about the increase in piracy in the waters around Lagos-Apapa.

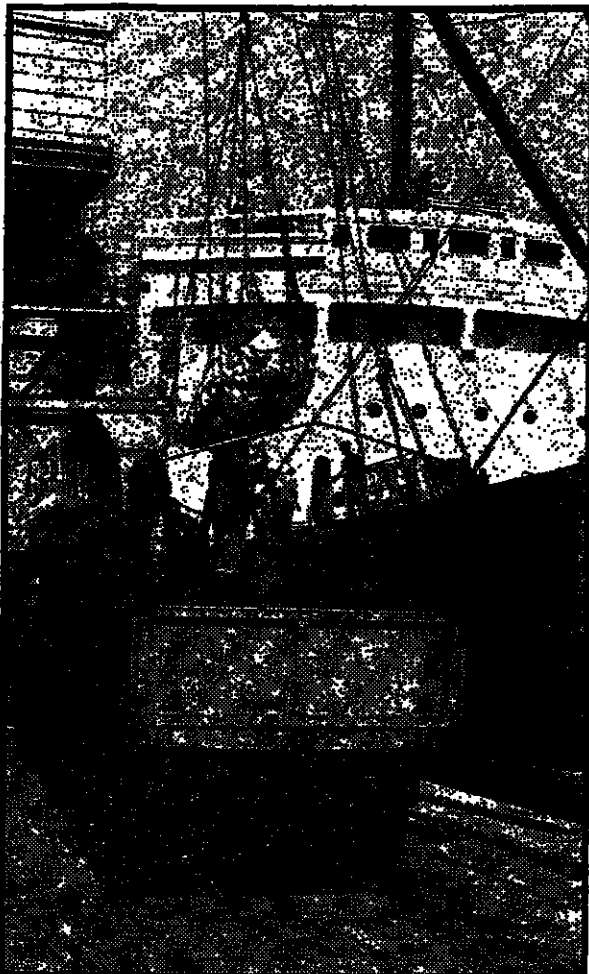
The International Transport Workers' Federation urged its 360 affiliated organizations in 80 countries to recommend a boycott of Nigerian ports until the situation improved. The International Shipping Federation and the British foreign office called for effective steps to ensure the safety of ships and crews in Nigerian waters.

Further development of the Apapa port complex is under way. By next May a third wharf extension, involving the construction of a quay 1,000 metres long, with a water depth of 13.5 metres and 200,000 sq ft of storage space, is due for completion. An estimated N75m is being spent on the project. It will include the provision of six additional berths and a new container terminal designed to meet the needs of a business that has expanded rapidly in the past 10 years. In 1968 the port handled 182 containers but in 1975-76 it dealt with nearly 25,000 and the traffic continues to increase. At present about 97 per cent of container cargoes handled by Nigerian ports go through one berth on the existing Apapa quays, the balance through Warri and Port Harcourt.

The new container berth will be equipped with modern handling facilities and will be served both by road and rail transport. Other development projects are under way at Port Harcourt, the country's second largest port, which handles about 15 per cent of Nigeria's foreign trade, excluding oil shipments. Port Harcourt, which lies on a bend in the Bonny river 75 kilometres from the sea, has eight berths, one of which is used solely for loading coal. Under the third development plan four new berths along a further 1,000 metres of quay are to be built at a cost of N40m.

The present port complex covers 47 hectares and is provided with both road and rail connections. There are transit sheds and four modern warehouses, and the total storage area amounts to about 41,000 sq metres.

Some of Nigeria's smaller ports are also expanding. At Warri, 126km from Escravos Bay, a 160-metre long wharf can accommodate two deep



Apapa docks, Lagos. The new terminal has gone a long way to relieve the congestion.

sea ships, but four more berths are to be constructed by 1980 at a cost of N27m. At Koko on the Benue river N15m is to be spent on building five new berths and a fish and shrimp terminal. 610 metres long is also to be constructed. Facilities at Calabar, which lies 9km from the main entrance channel of the

Cross river, are also to be developed. A new port is being built upstream from the present one. This will provide four berths costing N16.5m. When all these schemes are completed Nigeria's ports will be among the most modern in the world.

*£1=1.82 naira.

ROADS, RAILWAYS

A high price for relieving clogged arteries

The traffic congestion of Lagos and the interminable delays are still far from being a feature of the past despite the construction of new elevated roads designed to siphon traffic from the central area. Passenger cars and commercial vehicles clog the main arterial roads in and out of the major conurbations.

As the Nigerian economy has boomed, so has the development of road transport to a point where saturation has been reached. Added to which, the gross inefficiency of the railway system, with relatively short journeys taking much longer than they should because of the narrow-gauge single track, has led Nigeria's emergent industries to funnel much of their freight business on to the roads.

A main feature of the country's third development plan is expenditure on improving both the road and rail facilities of the huge country. Throughout the federation some 12,000km of roads are being built. About 7,000km are represented by projects which have been commissioned as part of the current plan (1975-80), while design teams are working on the preparation of a further 13,000km.

The cost of these projects alone is N3,400m, while the total planned capital expenditure on road construction during the five-year period is about N6,000m on the basis of the estimates contained in the revised projects of the plan.

Overall, the federal government is responsible for the planning, design and construction of some 27,000km of primary roads, which includes 16,000km of roads which have been taken over by the federal authorities from various state governments. Under

their direction, the state governments are responsible for nearly 70,000km of secondary roads and feeder roads which link to the main primary roads.

A central feature of the planned road development programme, according to Mr M. T. Usman, permanent secretary at the Federal Ministry of Works, is to achieve coordinated development, national integration and economic efficiency.

Considerable spending is also scheduled to take place on the construction of by-passes in three dozen urban centres and the construction of flyovers and elevated crossings to alleviate traffic density in the centre of the major cities. Under the plan, the 19 state governments will be working on 19,000 km of roads in their areas, which is expected to cost close to N1,000m.

About half the road development taking place in the states is devoted to the construction of main feeder links to the federal road network. The result of the developments which are scheduled — and the magnitude of the task makes their completion in the present plan period most unlikely — will be a comprehensive road system much better equipped to meet the demands which are being made upon it.

The railway system which was laid down in the dying years of the nineteenth century has suffered from lack of investment funds for many years and the poor use of the system has meant that it has been unable to generate sufficient funds to bring about the improvements which are desperately needed. The industry too has suffered from being unable to attract sufficient managers with administrative ability.

The system — which was built in the shape of a large letter H to link the pre-

dominantly agricultural northern regions to the coastal belt — has considerable potential. But the fact that it can take 30 hours to travel along the single narrow gauge track from Lagos to Kaduna, compared with a little over one hour by inter-rail services, does not commend itself to the growing number of travellers.

Big benefit in opening up hinterland

Nevertheless, the 3,505km of 3ft 6in track remains a major benefit in the opening up of the hinterland and, it is hoped, in diverting an increasing quantity of road freight to the railways, both in terms of exports from the hinterland and imports which are required to support the industrial service developments under way in the states.

The third plan calls for the laying of standard gauge system along 960km of track as well as the construction of viaducts, tunnels and six bridges at a total cost of nearly N500m.

Already this year the Nigerian Railway Corporation has let design and site investigation contracts for two priority sections of track improvement. The Paris-based firm of Fugère, which leads a consortium including Laing International, is carrying out preliminary work on the section between Port Harcourt and Makurdi. Another group, Italrao of Italy, has been charged with the preliminary work on a new section of line which will link Orukpe with Ajeokuta, the site of a new steelworks. The Brazilian company of Hidroservice has been given a contract for the

design and site investigations which will lead to the construction of a new bridge over the river Benue.

The NRC is also involved in replacing and expanding its rolling stock. Britain's Crown Agents prepared specification and tender documents for 55 main line locomotives which last year led to a £20m contract being placed with General Electric and General Motors of the United States. Twenty diesel electric shunting locos have been ordered from Brush Electrical Machines.

NRC is also involved in attempting to woo back to the railways the commuters of Lagos, most of whom travel by car or by buses operated by private and state organizations.

For Nigeria this is a novel concept. The plan is that four-coach diesel trains each capable of accommodating 550 passengers will ply between Apapa and the main Lagos terminal at Iddo. The planned routes will merge outside Lagos and continue to the Murtala Muhammed airport at Ikeja 10 miles along the track, stopping at six stations. Tenders for the supply of the equipment are expected to be invited shortly.

Meanwhile there is speculation that the management of the railway system may be let on a contract basis to a foreign company. Three countries — India, Hungary and France — are the front runners. The favourite is India, which recently signed a cooperation agreement with Nigeria through Rail India Technical and Economic Services. It is understood that the contract, which would last for between three and five years, would involve the supervision of the planned conversion to standard gauge coupled with a reorganization of the corporation's management and general administrative systems.

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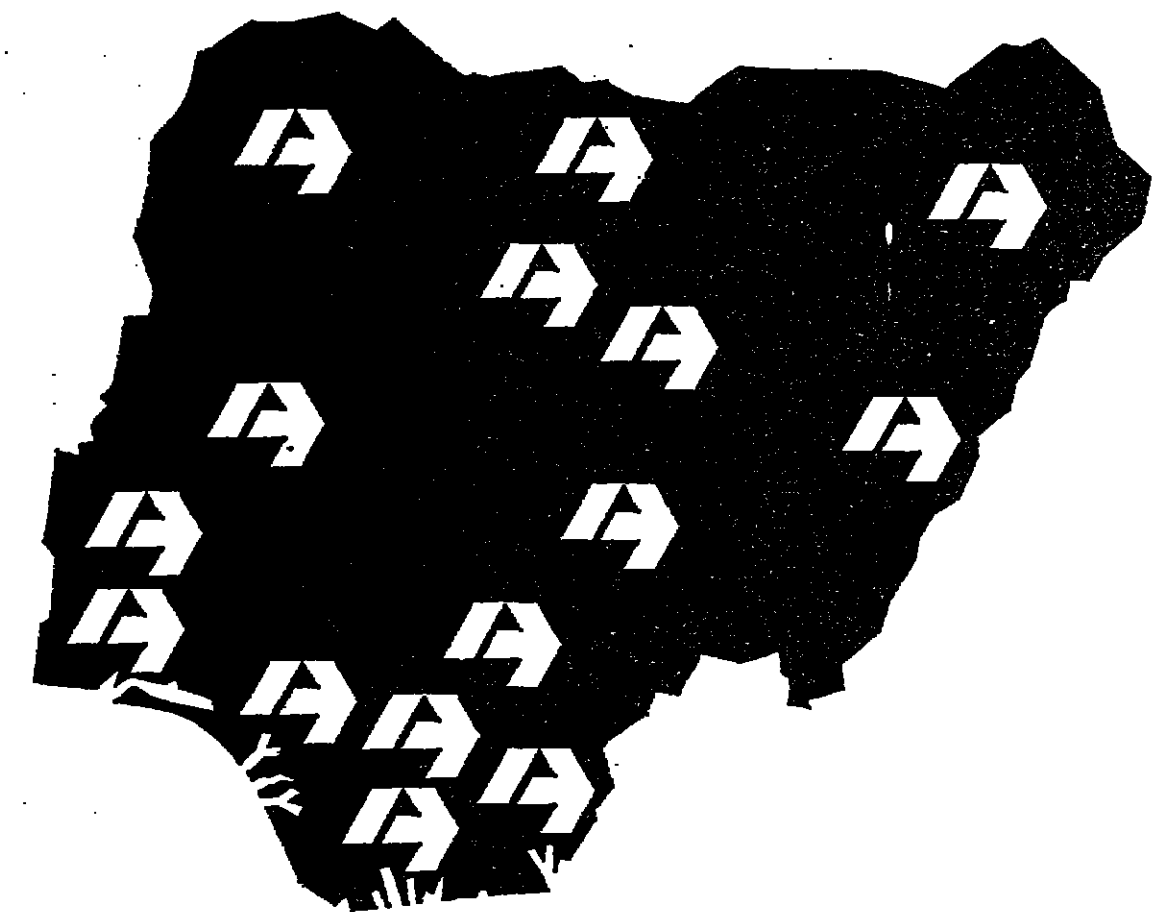
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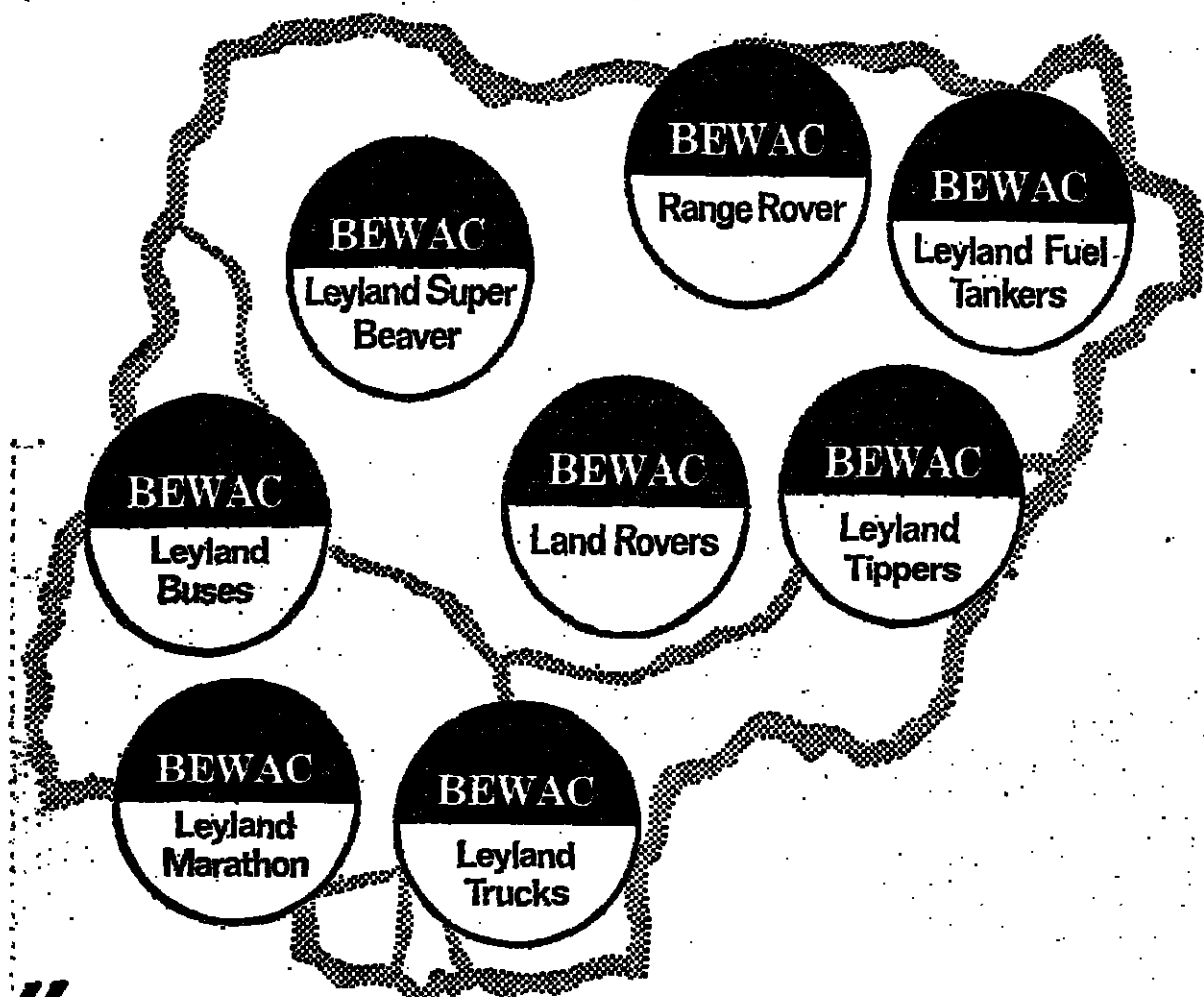
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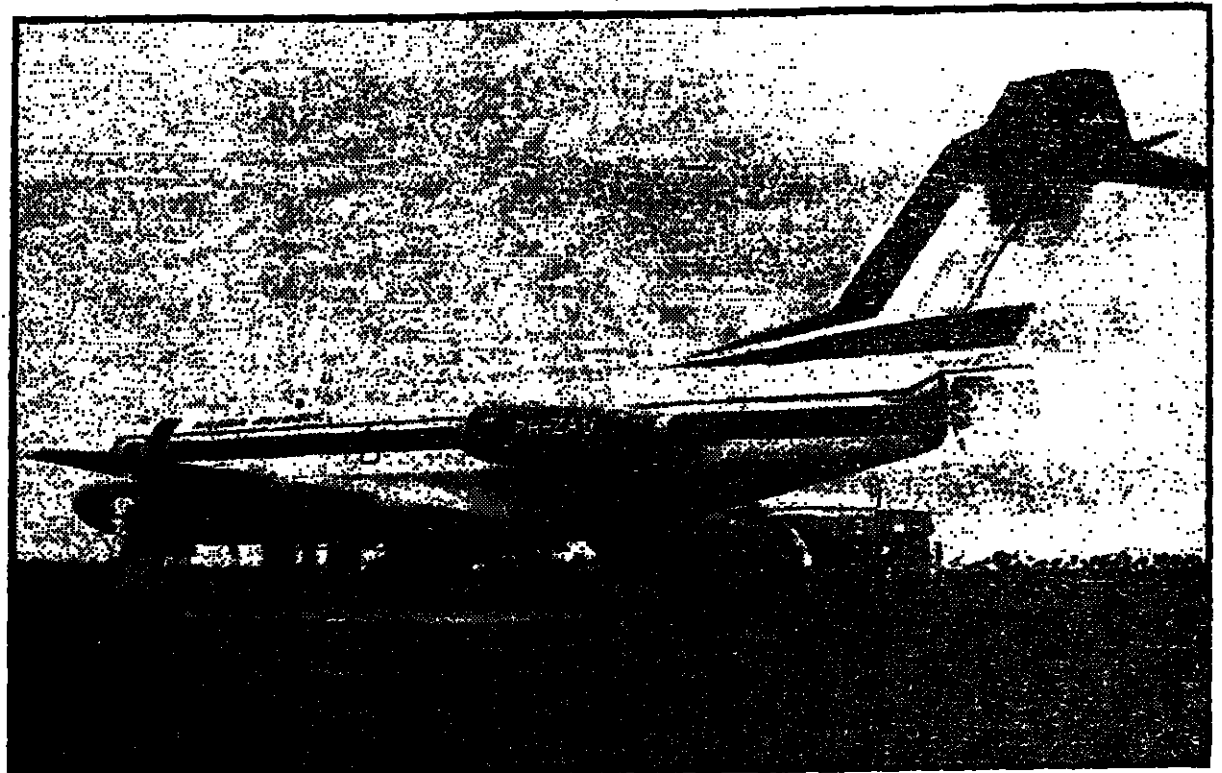


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AVIATION

Spending their way out of chaos



A Fokker being fuelled at Murtala Muhammad airport, which will be able to take supersonic aircraft when development work is completed.

Murtala Muhammad airport may appear to passengers to be a chaotic nightmare, but it has improved. The shortcomings and difficulties of Nigeria's principal airport, 15 miles from Lagos, have been recognized and next year should see the opening of a new airport. It became all too apparent some years ago that the existing facilities could not possibly cope with the flood of passengers. When the developments are completed in 1979 rather than 1978, the airport will be able to accommodate not only the 747s that international airlines are using increasingly but also supersonic aircraft. The projects which have been implemented form part of a comprehensive and ambitious plan for the country's airport and general aviation development, involving construction of new airports and improving existing facilities.

Under the revised spending limits of the third national development plan covering 1975-80, N700m has been allocated for the development of airport facilities throughout the country. Earlier this year, Dr William Osiangbo, Federal Commissioner for Aviation, disclosed that N400m had been committed and of that about half had been paid for work done.

Apart from the developments at Lagos, six other airports, at Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Kano, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Ibadan are being improved to a standard which will enable them to accommodate jumbo jets. Airports at Calabar, Enugu, Jos, Benin, Ibadan and Yola are being redeveloped to enable 737 size aircraft to land, and other improvements are planned at Zaria, Gusau and Warri.

Completion of the planned developments will provide one of the most comprehensive internal airline networks in Africa and provide

links to international destinations from deepest Nigeria.

At Lagos, the main focus of the development programme is the gateway to the country, the long overdue improvements to what must have ranked as one of the most uncomfortable terminal facilities in the world, have been delayed as a result of shortages of essential equipment in the initial phases. Apart from the physical improvements, the aircraft is being equipped with radar and associated aircraft handling and control facilities. The acute shortage of hotel accom-

modation should also be

partially alleviated by the construction of a hotel. The secondary runway at Kano has been lengthened and strengthened to cope with the expected increase in traffic. The new lay-out at Ibadan is designed in such a way that it will provide an alternative to Murtala Muhammad airport.

Planned developments at Port Harcourt, the centre of Nigeria's oil industry, have been hampered by bad weather, the poor sub-soil and the lack of access to the new airport site, compounded by difficulties in

the financial management of

the project. Nigeria's network of internal routes is considerable, with flights operated by Nigeria Airways established nearly 20 years ago after the dissolution of West African Airways (Nigeria) in 1958. The state-owned undertaking owns a fleet of more than 20 aircraft, including seven F27s and seven F28s, two Boeing 707s, two DC10s and a number of other short and medium-range jets. Last year the fleet was more than doubled and this year it has grown by half again.

However, the introduction of new aircraft has so far not led to any marked improvement in the reliability of several of the company's internal flights. Nigeria Airways has become synonymous with poor service and chaotic organization. Long-suffering internal travellers question the wisdom of operating half-empty flights to a growing number of international destinations. Perhaps the introduction of a second force—an independent airline—would provide the spur for improved service by the state corporation.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Phones get priority in big development plan

Scores of foreign technicians are working desperately with their Nigerian counterparts to revive the country's overloaded and largely obsolete telecommunication links both within the country and with the world outside.

The vicissitudes of Nigeria's telephone system are legion. Telephones go silent and often remain so for months; contact over even short distances becomes impossible. Often, to find that the telephone is working is cause for jubilation.

Most of the faults can be attributed to shortages of adequately trained staff, outmoded and overloaded equipment, and disruptions caused by the widespread civil engineering projects which are under way throughout the country. Significant efforts are, however, being made to redress the shortcomings. When the present modernization programme is completed, Nigeria will possess one of the most comprehensive telecommunication systems in the world.

Existing density of telephones is equivalent to one per thousand of the country's huge population—one of the lowest density rates in the world—and the network is largely manually operated. Much of the exchange equipment is nearly 30 years old and fewer than 50 locations have automatic equipment.

But under the provisions of the revised third national development plan a total of N1,300m is being committed to improving the telecommunication network. Nigeria's military rulers have placed great emphasis on the development of the communications service, embracing both the postal and telecommunication operations.

On the postal side the Federal Military Government is to spend N125m on new post office buildings and more than 8,000 new postal agencies are to be used as mobile post offices on 43 routes in different parts of the country.

But it is in the telecommunications sector that the bulk of the expenditure will occur. At the end of 1976 connections were let for the installation of automatic exchanges at more than 50 important locations. GEC's subsidiary, Telephone Cables, is working on a multi-million pound contract to install a telephone cable network in the northern part of Nigeria in 41 towns covering an area larger than England, Scotland and Wales.

This year it is expected that as a result of the improvements already made,

the telephone density will rise to three per thousand of the population. Between next year and 1980 nearly 300,000 new lines are scheduled to be linked to the existing network. That will boost the number of lines to 750,000, lifting the density to ten per thousand of the population.

The longer-term plan calls for a further increase in line capacity in the period to 1985 to a total of 2,500,000, which would place Nigeria broadly on a par with the average world level growth rate in telephone density.

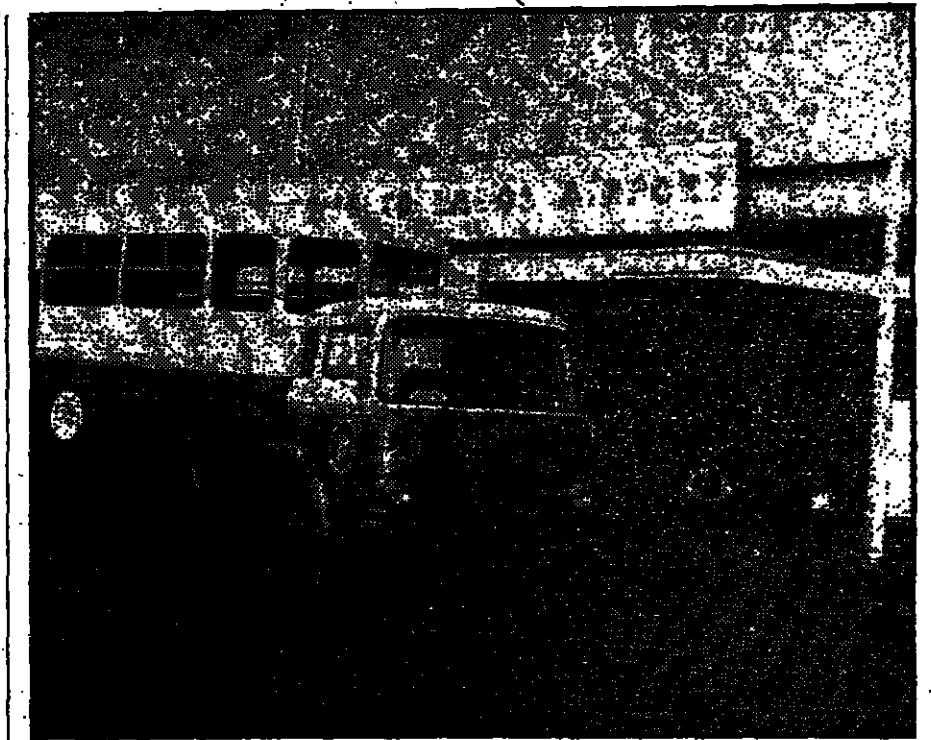
Communications with the outside world feature prominently in the revised plan. A second submarine cable & Wireless is providing a new submarine telephone cable to link Lagos with the world network.

It is also planned to build a second submarine structure at the earth station at Landau which is designed to extend direct communications with other parts of the world. Completion of the work will enable the station to extend its coverage to nearly two-thirds of the global surface and enable substantial improvements to be achieved in telephone capabilities of the Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET). At present NET relies on routing its telephone traffic to eastern countries through switching centres in Europe. Additional equipment is to be installed at the station to serve the Indian Ocean area.

There are also plans for the construction of a second satellite earth station in the Northern Region of Nigeria which will be equipped with facilities for handling traffic for public telephone, telex, telegraph services and international television programmes.

Emphasis is also being placed on upgrading telex switching centres, and computerized telex exchange facilities are to be installed in Lagos to increase the international trunk capacity from about 80 to more than 300. In the north of the country a similar computerized facility is to be introduced at the proposed new telex switching centre, which will provide a direct link with the nearest large centre in the country's telex network.

A further N5m is to be spent on the provision of automatic switching facilities in Lagos for public and private telegraph services and to connect the circuit via satellite, shortwave radio or microwave links to other telegraph centres and which will also be able to handle transit traffic between countries.



Passengers arriving at a terminal. There are plans to develop seven airports to create a comprehensive internal network.

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هكذا من الاصل

This and the following five pages contain profiles of nine regions throughout the country

IBADAN

Beggars flow downstream against the tide of cars

by Richard Thomas

*...a splash of red
and gold—flung and
among seven, like
china in the air.*

John Pepper Clark, in this poem of 1960, captured the dusty streets, the rusting, gaudied tin roofs and the glancing sunshine of Ibadan. It remains an accurate snapshot today. On one of these hills the Premier Hotel disdains association with the town below. Viewed from the hill, the town is a sea of brown rooftops, surges without relief. A million and a half people crowd Ibadan with their life's needs, making it the largest indigenous city in Africa.

A key commercial, economic and intellectual centre in Nigeria, this central Yoruba town is now capital of Oyo state. Aware of its importance, the city struggles to outlive its inhabitants with their noisy and dirty haunts, their affluence and filth.

The roads of Ibadan have succumbed to the people, eggars and street sellers now downstream against the tide of cars, lapping at one car window after another, thrusting brushes, bags, pants and pegs, and outstretched palms at the sweating occupants. Each market the wife is lined in rans, waiting departure, and their rivers shour in competition for price for travel.

But the people have compensated Ibadan for their presence; they have attracted the publishers, the major commercial and manufacturing companies, the Kingsway Press and the British Council; they have inspired the university, the Institute of Church and Society; they have nurtured the wood-carvers and the cloth-weavers.

It has not always been so. The traditional Yoruba states were Ife and Oyo, but in the early nineteenth century the Yoruba kings fell out and a long period of civil disorder ensued. This was exacerbated by

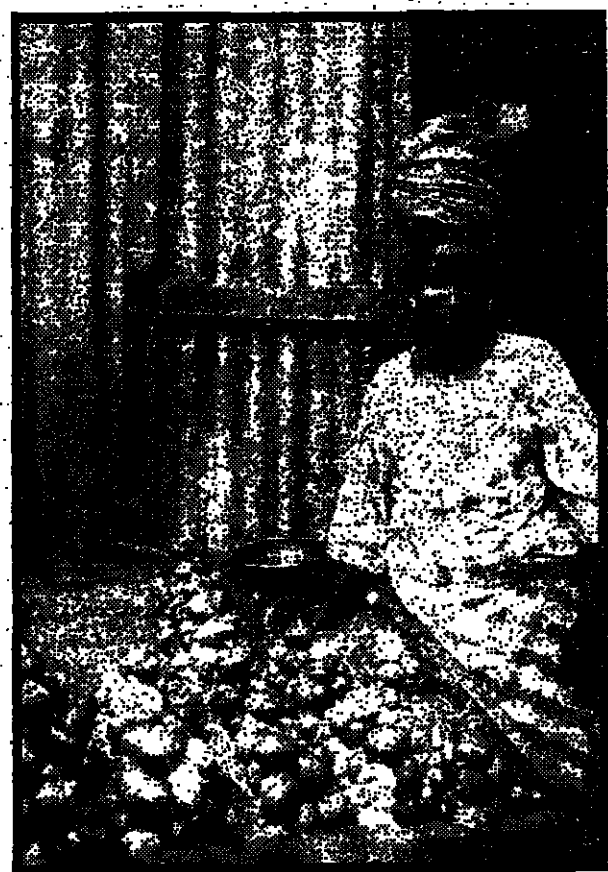
the Muslim Fulani from the north whose advance south stopped the Yoruba from raiding the middle belt for slaves and caused them to raid each other instead. Groups of bandits roamed Yorubaland and around 1829 a group set up camp in what was to become Ibadan. The camp became a rallying point and a place of safety for the refugees, both from the civil wars and from the Fulani incursions into Oyo.

Gradually it was established as the Yoruba military headquarters from which resistance against the Fulani was mounted. In 1851 the town had 11 miles of protective walls and its population grew rapidly to 60,000. By the time it came under British rule in 1893, the population had risen to about 120,000.

The success of Ibadan was based on a number of factors. The hills in and around the town provided good look-out points; the protective walls were defensible and thus encouraged more people to settle in Ibadan; and luck perhaps had sided it sufficiently far into the high forest that Fulani horsemen were discouraged from mounting an attack on it. The population used Ibadan as a fortified village whence they would journey to their farms outside the walls during the day. Indeed, it is still referred to as a giant village, and about a fifth of the inhabitants still work as farmers, travelling out of their farms whenever necessary.

Ibadan was not a traditional Yoruba centre, although it had long had a traditional chief, called the Olubadan, and its inhabitants felt willing to experiment with change. They laid great emphasis on modernity; they were ready to adopt their life-styles and to become involved with trade and commerce. They also accepted the Western educational system, brought by the British, and Ibadan became (like Abeokuta, another refuge town) an educational centre.

However, it did not quickly become a political centre. Despite its preeminence as a trading centre it was ruled by Oyo from 1900, when Southern Nigeria was put



Smiles all round: whether it is selling onions or sharing the one desk at a crowded village school near Ibadan.

under British protection, and growing economic significance encouraged settled immigration. "Strangers' quarters" were established; the Nupe and people from the Hausa and Fulani traders at Sabo, and people from the east of Nigeria at Eketedo. These areas are today a mile or two from the traditional walled centre of the town which is around Mapo Hall, and they separate it from the railway line which runs to the west of the old town.

The commercial areas' main factories have been established near the railway line and the Lagos road. This has moved the economic centre of gravity a little to the west of the old city. An outer ring of administrative, military, and educational establishments has developed around the old town and commercial area.

The old parliament buildings and the secretariat are to the north-east, and beyond square mile, giving an average of 24 people to a house and as many as 100 to a compound.

The Yorubas' ready acceptance of new ideas and technologies and the demand for a whole range of goods and services, which a city of Ibadan's size generates, has created thousands of small-scale factories and workshops all around the city. Tailors and wood-workers abound on every street and the demands of the mechanical age have fostered the development of hundreds of small engineering workshops which repair cars, lorries, bicycles, and motor cycles. The earliest big factory in Ibadan was the Nigerian Tobacco Company cigarette factory, which opened in 1937. It was followed by the

Nipol plastics industry, the Lafia cannery and a tyre re-treading factory. The success of these ventures and the burgeoning Nigerian economy have encouraged a number of British firms to go to Ibadan rather than other centres such as Lagos. Perhaps the best known of these firms is British Leyland which is now building a massive plant in Ibadan for the production of Land Rovers and Range Rovers; others include Tilbury International, a British construction firm which has been awarded a multi-million pound contract to build the Ibadan ringroad.

In some ways the future of Ibadan is uncertain; as the capital of a smaller state it has lost some of its power and a number of its senior administrators have gone to run other states. But it will probably prosper if it continues to invest in education, improving its services, and encouraging industry and agriculture. The basic services are there, the people are willing and able, the soil is fertile, and the commercial and industrial sectors are continuing to expand.

Ibadan has developed as a major intellectual and cultural centre. There is a large and important university and a polytechnic which between them have the two best bookshops in Nigeria. There is a teaching hospital and a number of research institutions such as Moor Plantation and the Forestry Research Institute.

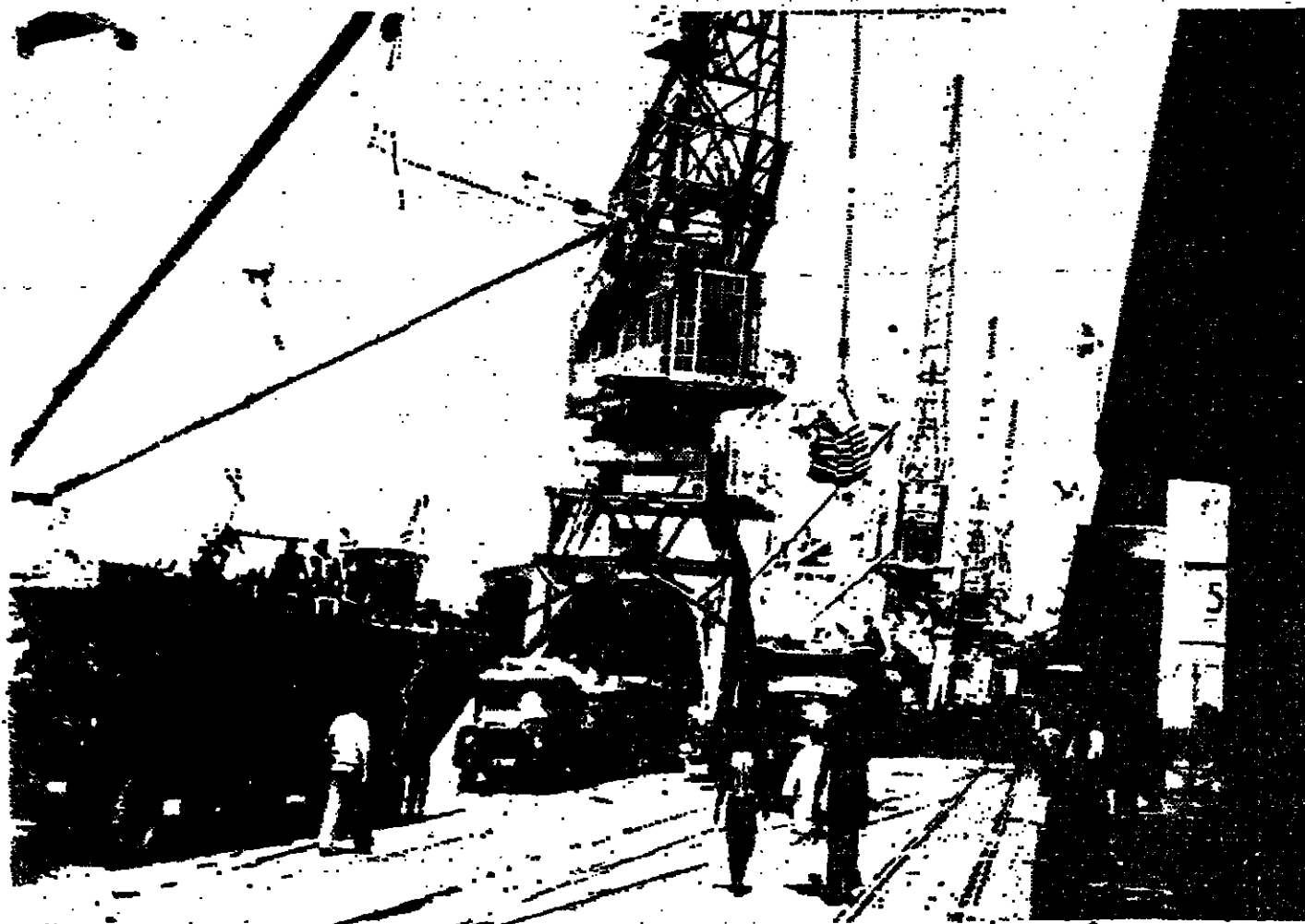
Because of the preeminence of the university, a number of leading British publishers have located their Nigerian headquarters in Ibadan. One publisher, Evans, now generates more sales and profits in Nigeria than in the United Kingdom. The Caxton Press was set up in Ibadan in 1956.

At the artistic level Ibadan can compete with any city in Nigeria. Traditional dyeing, weaving, and embroidery are still popular, and woodworkers such as the Fakaye brothers produce articles of high quality. The chapel doors of the university are a fine example of the relief style of wood carving and near the university is the Dominican community housed in impressive buildings designed by Demas Nwokolo.

The author, formerly a teacher in Western State, is a lecturer in African studies at the Centre for International Briefing, Farnham Castle.

NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

— gateway to the nation's economy



NIGERIAN PORTS ARE DEVELOPING

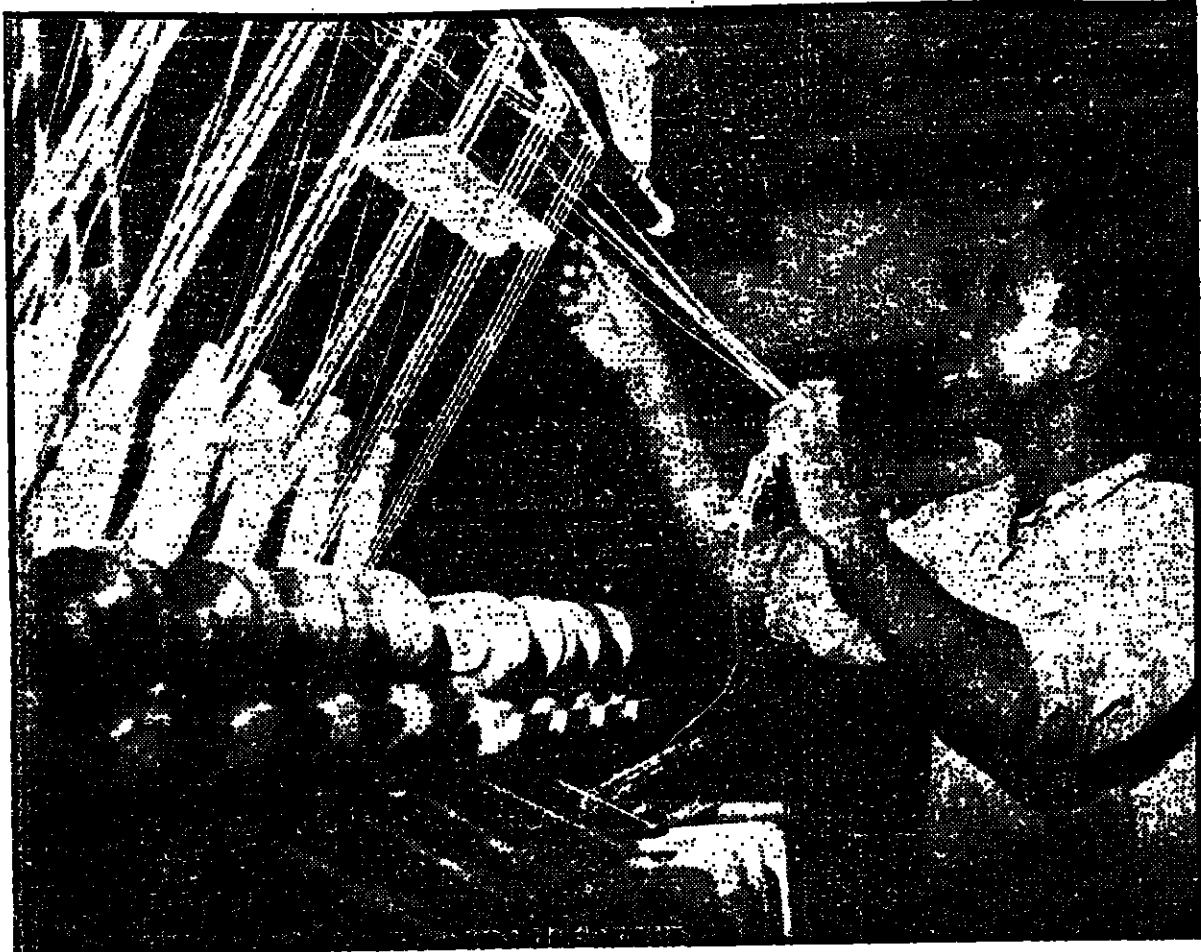
The third wharf extension to Apapa Port will be equipped with a Container Terminal and three conventional berths.

The new wharf at Tin Can Island has ten berths and a dockyard for repairs of small crafts and pilot launches.

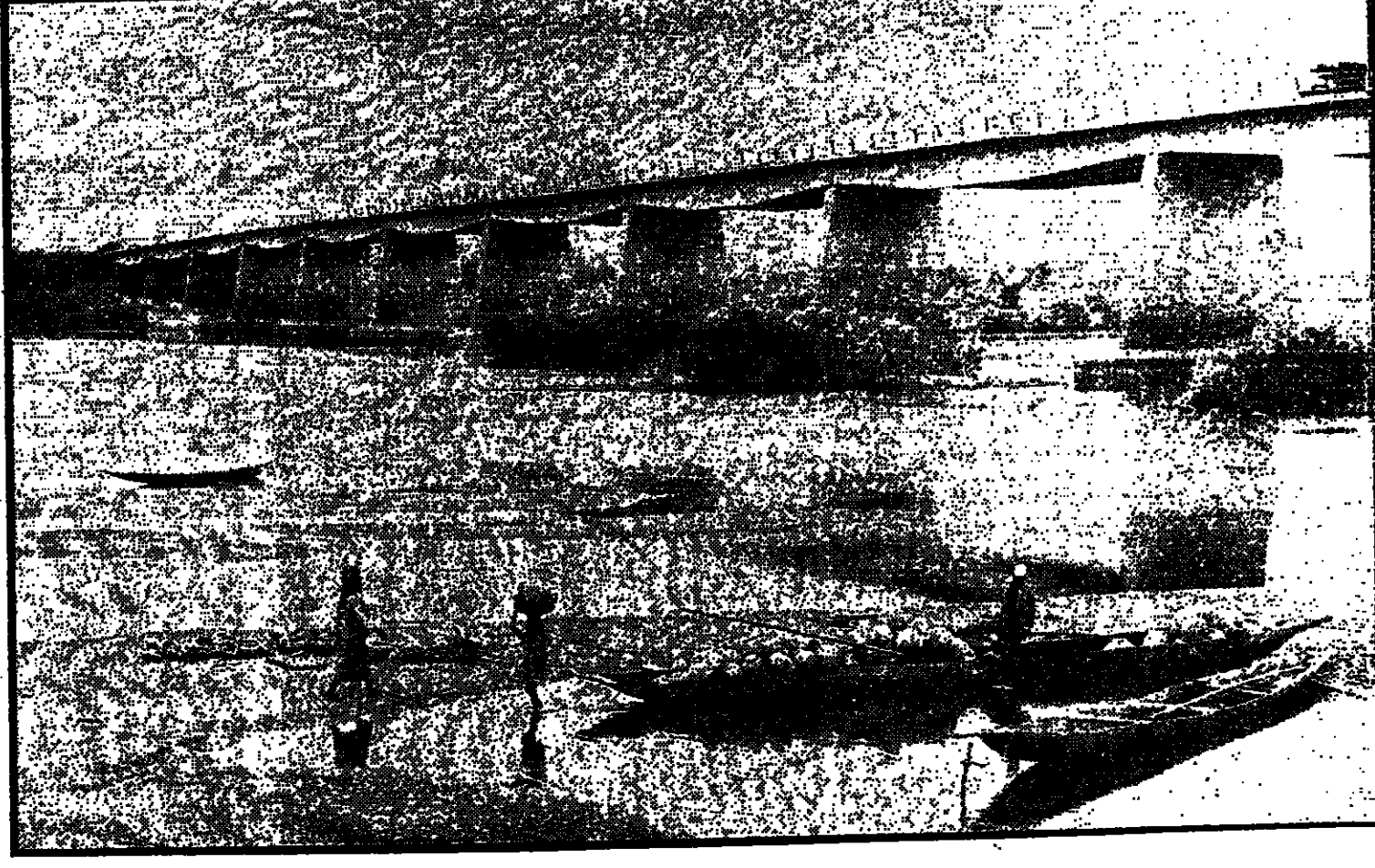
Port Harcourt wharf will have fifty additional berths; Warri Port six new berths and Calabar Port will have four berths at the new site.

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Cotton-spinning in Kano. This ancient, mud-walled city is now an industrial centre. Right: the Wuya bridge over the Kaduna river.



KANO

Ancient caravan terminus reflects national diversity

by Peter Hill

Outside the mud walls of the old city, traffic pours along the wide roads of the new Kano. Modern office blocks rise starkly. The cacophony of car horns and thunder of heavy lorries mixes with the braying of mules and the bleating of goats. Proud, robed men from the desert stride along the carriageways, swords slung casually over shoulders.

Kano, capital of the most populous of Nigeria's 19

states—the heart of the north—is a city of charm, character, culture and commerce; a city where ancient and modern blend into one but manage to preserve their originality.

Within the old walled city the Emir's palace stands imposingly over the sandy esplanade. Not far away lies the sprawling, teeming Kurni market, the commercial centre of the old city, where thousands of traders hawk a bewildering variety of wares. The market has been the centre of commercial activity in Kano for centuries. It was from here

that the great camel caravans began and ended their long journeys across the Sahara and the wide expanse of West Africa.

Along its narrow alleys traders sit asking visitors to look at fine leatherware, fruit and highly honed swords and daggers. At the centre of this Aladdin's Cave is the money market where, despite the rigours of Nigeria's foreign exchange regulations, the traders are prepared to haggle and barter over transactions in most currencies.

Kano, perhaps more than any other major Nigerian city, reflects the wide diversity of cultural and

ethnic differences which exist within the federation. Its people and those six million to seven million people who live outside the metropolitan area in the bush which makes up most of Kano state's 16,650 sq miles, are predominantly Hausa, followers of Islam.

For centuries the four emirates of Kano state (itself less than ten years old) — Kano, Hadejia, Kassarau and Gumel—have been the main influences on the life of the people. The Emir of Kano has played the most formative role in terms of local politics and the development of local institutions but now he and

his followers are having to reconcile themselves to further change. The reform of local government a year ago has meant the handing over of a considerable number of services to a locally elected council. The Emir's role is the subject of further debate as the nation prepares for a return to civilian rule in 1979.

Kano state is heavily dependent on federal government assistance, particularly since the state's most important product, groundnuts, is in decline. About 80 per cent of the population is directly dependent on agriculture and its ancillary industries of fishing, forestry and stock raising. Crops include cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, rice, fruit, vegetables and, increasingly, wheat, production of which is being expanded by the construction of new irrigation systems.

Considerable attention is being paid to the improvement of agriculture to provide not only employment but also to meet the needs of a growing population and to generate income from exports. In the present five-year development programme (1975-80) N4.6m is being spent on forestry with a further N1.6m on fisheries and nearly N25m on livestock and veterinary facilities. General agricultural schemes, including irrigation schemes, will account for a massive N142.5m over the plan's term.

Earlier this year the first phase of the Hadejia-Jam'are River project was contracted out at a cost of N66.8m. The project involves the construction of both branch and distributary canals and irrigation facilities for 22,000 hectares. When the three phases of the project have been completed an estimated 17,000 hectares will have been brought within the irrigation system for growing groundnuts, vegetables, sorghum, cotton, maize, wheat and rice.

Attention is also being paid to restoring the state's former preeminence as a producer of groundnuts and encouraging the cultivation of other crops. In the present five-year plan nearly 50,000 tons of fertilizer are to be supplied to local peasant farmers while a tractor hire scheme is being substantially expanded.

This year the Kano state budget will involve recurrent expenditure of almost N200m compared with N74m the previous year and a rise in capital spending from N120m in 1976-77 to N257m this year, although there will be an increased capital deficit of some N57m.

Industrial development is not being neglected. Kano is already the centre for a number of industries ranging from cosmetics and perfumes to brewing and textiles. But with an estimated three million people living within a radius of 50 miles of Kano there is clearly considerable scope for industrial expansion. One of the most recent newcomers is Britain's Raleigh cycle company, a subsidiary of T. I. Raleigh Industries, which established its cycle factory in Kano two years ago.

The Kano plant has been producing cycles at two and a half times its design volume to keep pace with demand. Two months ago the company announced a major expansion programme costing N4m to keep pace with demand in the next decade, against the background of a 50 per cent rise in annual sales since the plant was established.

Last year Kano state received applications from 34 private sector concerns representing a total investment of about N20m in industry, which will employ about 6,000 people in the production of wood and furniture, textiles and chemical engineering. Consideration is being given to the construction of a glass factory and work is continuing on the development of new industrial estates.

Dusk is falling as the polo ponies thunder across the parched turf of Kaduna racecourse. The shouts of British military advisers and weakly Nigerian businessmen echo across the field as the final chukka draws to its close. The hum of conversation from the polo club

Over in the golf club the expatriates—Japanese, German and British—tell tales of the party the night before and forthcoming leave.

A stranger might be forgiven for thinking that nothing has changed much in Kaduna since Nigeria became independent and the city lost its position as capital of Northern Nigeria. Its wide streets and carefully cultivated gardens, its architecture and its atmosphere remain quintessentially British.

Central position ensures city's future

Kaduna was established by Lord Lugard as the capital of Northern Nigeria and in the gardens which carry his name, a small iron bridge, built in Aberdeen, shipped to Lagos and transported overland, straddles a small creek which feeds into the river Kaduna—the Hausa plural for the crocodiles which once lurked in its murky waters.

The city which Lugard founded is now the administrative capital of Kaduna state, an area which covers about 27,000 sq miles of tropical savannah whose tem-

KADUNA

A colonial relic in the throes of change

perate climate attracted the colonial settlers and administrators. With an airport being extended to international standards, good roads spreading out to the main towns in other parts of Nigeria, and an important rail junction, Kaduna's central position will ensure that it continues to play an important role in the development of Nigeria.

Kaduna is the centre of the textile industry and although its commercial importance is not as great as that of Kano, its industries are growing in importance. There are seven textile mills employing about 20,000 people and it is reckoned that the industry supports over 200,000 people in the area. It was established at Kaduna because of the cotton and availability of water and manpower. Annual output has reached about 280 million square metres. Recently a polypropylene plant was established and silk production has been introduced.

A number of other industrial developments have taken place in recent years. One of the most important is the Peugeot assembly plant, a joint government-Peugeot venture on the outskirts of the city. The plant daily assembles 80 cars which are flown in from France to Kano and then transported by road. The air transport was necessary because of the congestion at Lagos-Apapa. The plant is now being expanded to produce 220 cars a day by 1980.

Earlier this year a contract was signed for the design and construction of an oil refinery at Kaduna. The refinery is due to be completed in 1980 and will have a daily capacity for refining 100,000 barrels of crude oil. It will produce gas for cooking, two grades of petrol, fuel oil, kerosene, waxes and asphalt.

The refinery is planned to alleviate the chronic fuel

shortages which bedevil the world's fifth largest crude oil producer. Japan's Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Company is building the complex which will receive its crude oil from a pipeline linked to the Warri refinery. Initially the line will provide petroleum products from the Warri refinery for distribution in the Kaduna area.

Efforts are being made to attract both large and small-scale industries to Kaduna state. In the past few months the state government, in cooperation with local business interests, has completed plans for establishing a variety of industries including plastics, galvanised steel and soft drinks.

The emphasis of this year's N383.3m budget for Kaduna state is on the development of education. The state has the fourth largest population in Nigeria—four million—and is fifth largest in area.

Agriculture still important

The economy is still largely dependent on agriculture, which produces a wide variety of crops, including peppers, yams, cassava, rice, cotton, groundnuts, maize and guinea corn. Considerable potential for tobacco growing exists although production is restricted by the requirements of local processors. There are export opportunities however.

With its central position and pleasant climate, Kaduna faces the future with confidence. Plans for the development of the new federal capital at Abuja, not far away, will have an impact on the further development of Kaduna itself as a base for building the new city.

P.H.

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هكذا من الاصل

PORT HARCOURT

An unenviable reputation
for lawlessness

Port Harcourt, capital of Rivers state, Nigeria's second largest port and operational centre for much of the oil industry, has achieved a reputation for lawlessness and a major police campaign is under way to halt the state of armed robberies. Citizens must observe midnight to 5 am curfew imposed by the military governor in an attempt to check armed gangs.

Early last month soldiers and mobile police clashed in Port Harcourt after an incident at the airport involving an army officer and the mobile police. A police sergeant was shot dead. A week later a gang of armed robbers mounted a road block on one of the main roads leading out of the city at dusk. More than 50 vehicles were stopped and an estimated 800 people found themselves forced to hand over money and possessions.

Rivers is a huge state of about 28,000 sq km and its creeks and swamps provide excellent bases for the robber bands. Port Harcourt itself, a sprawling city, provides the focal point for much of the state's industrial activity although a large number of the 1,700,000 population (1963 census) make their living from farming and fishing. New federal and state government office blocks have been built since the civil war and most of the buildings damaged during the war have been rebuilt.

The capital boasts a college of science and technology and a new university college is being built. Industries within the city's boundaries include boat building, aluminium products and the manufacture of soft drinks, tyres, soaps and cigarettes. But it is the oil industry which is pre-eminent.

All the major oil companies in Nigeria have their headquarters in Port Harcourt. Rivers is the leading oil-producing state in the federation accounting for nearly 50 per cent of all production. Two jetties have been built for oil exports. Oil has placed considerable strains on the city's hotels although it has been alleviated to some extent by the completion of a new hotel and an extension to Presidential Hotel, which will be ready for occupation next year.

But the oil and gas industry and the revenues which flow from it have produced other strains and tensions. Rivers receives more a head from federal revenue than other states but the questions of deprivation and the pressure for an even greater allocation are likely to

remain issues for some considerable time.

The oil industry has provided the motive power for Nigeria's ambitious third annual development plan. But since the plan was drawn up three years ago it quickly became apparent that the spending levels which were projected for industrial and associated development based on increased oil revenues could not be met. Crude oil output, in fact, reached a peak of 2,300,000 barrels daily in October, 1974, but fell to 1,500,000 barrels in May, 1975, just two months after the plan was launched.

In the same period the posted price of Nigeria low sulphur light crude also fell and, seriously, undermined financial calculations.

Production increased to about 2,580,000 barrels a day in May this year but has since fallen back and in September amounted to 2,027,000 barrels. It dropped to about 1,800,000 barrels in October. Nigeria's oil is considered overpriced compared with other light low sulphur crudes produced in Algeria, Indonesia and Libya. The relative overpricing has been compounded by a glut of this type of oil, partly as a result of increased flows from the North Sea, whose oil is very similar to the crude produced from Nigerian fields.

Oil experts in Nigeria, however, reckon that a daily

production of between 1,800,000 and 1,900,000 barrels is probably about the right volume in terms of producing a level of revenue which is commensurate with the realistic targets and ambitions of the national development plan. It is now estimated that oil revenue in 1977 will be about \$3,900m against earlier estimates of about \$10,300m.

The high cost of exploration and development in the difficult terrain of Nigeria's principal oil-producing regions has cut back margins for the oil companies and in the past two years there has been a marked decline in exploration.

It was against this background that the oil companies were awaiting the announcement of new incentives to stimulate exploration and development at the end of last year. They were not disappointed. The Government produced a package of incentives which oil industry observers in Lagos consider will lead to a doubling and possibly a trebling of oil exploration and development next year.

The measures are also expected to lead to the development of marginal fields which have been discovered but under prevailing conditions were not considered economic to exploit. The package, which will apply retrospectively from April 1 this year, involves companies being allowed to

amortise their investment outlays in five equal annual instalments, although 1 per cent of each asset must be retained in the books until the Government authorizes disposal.

Companies which have found oil receive a capital investment tax credit of 5 per cent for land operations and up to 10 per cent for operations in offshore areas in water depths up to 100 metres, rising to 20 per cent for offshore operations in water up to 200 metres. Costs of all exploratory drilling and the first two test wells on each field under the new provisions will be fully offset against tax while companies which have just begun production will be taxed at 65.75 per cent until preproduction costs have been amortized. Finally, the Government has said that the existing 20 per cent royalty will be retained for offshore operations but will be reduced to 18.5 per cent for production from offshore wells in water depths up to 100ft, and 16 per cent in depths of more than 100ft.

Shell/BP, which operates in partnership with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, is the largest producing company in Nigeria and as a direct result of the new measures it has bought an exploration rig back into operation.

The company is planning to bring on stream a new field near Nembe Creek, which lies some distance away from existing fields in the delta area. Two other fields are scheduled for production by about the middle of next year. One of the fields, Opobo, is to the east of Bonny and is slightly offshore and the second, Utrata, lies in the delta swamps.

Meanwhile, there will be a further surge in the development of Port Harcourt over the next few years as the NNPC, with Shell-BP and three other foreign oil companies, begins work on the first stages of the construction of a massive new gas liquefaction plant on the banks of the Bonny river.

Two projects have been under discussion for some years and it now appears that the rival parties have agreed to the construction of a single plant, with the Federal Government holding a 60 per cent stake in the venture.

It is estimated the project will cost more than \$4,500m and ultimately will have a daily throughput of some 1,500 million cu ft of gas being shipped to the United States and Europe.

Some of the gas produced and piped to the Bonny terminal will be destined for a new petrochemical complex to be built at Port Harcourt. At present Nigeria flares the bulk of the associated gas which is a massive waste of energy.

P.H.



Workers on an oil rig. Port Harcourt is the operational centre for much of the country's oil industry.

ANAMBRA AND IMO

Division produces new
breed of
Ibo entrepreneurs

by Sam Uba

If the division of Nigeria into 12 states in May 1967 was the Gowon master stroke that killed Biafra before it was born and ensured the survival of the Nigerian federation, the further splitting of the predominantly Ibo Central-Eastern state into two—Anambra and Imo states—in February 1976 must be seen as the one act that has eliminated from the Nigerian psyche the bogey of Ibo domination.

Not only are the Ibos pleased with the split, but in each of the new states there are powerful elements demanding further divisions. In Anambra, for example, there is agitation for a Wawa state to embrace Enugu, the present capital of Anambra state, and its neighbouring districts, and for an Idemili state for Oritsha and adjoining divisions, which are regarded as having an educational eminence and economic superiority over the other areas of the state.

Similar demands have also been voiced in Imo state by some leaders of the Nwa and Aro peoples. The common complaint in Imo state is against "Aro imperialism", which dates back to before the British colonial era when the Aros were the principal slave dealers in the Ibo hinterland.

Those demands show that contrary to popular belief, Ibo solidarity is more superficial than real. Ibo unity was a myth created by some ambitious Ibo politicians in the colonial era and fostered by their rivals from other ethnic groups.

Other Nigerians, especially the Hausas and Yorubas, their main rivals for power in the first republic, never

realized that there was no love lost between the various Ibo groups and that their internal wranglings and jealousies were more intense and bitter than could be found among other ethnic groups in the country.

Ibo desire for unity coupled with their feeling of insecurity led them to found tribal unions which, in turn, led others to suspect that the Ibos were operating cabals to dominate Nigeria. Fear of the Ibos was the main factor that united the other Nigerians during the civil war just as fear of the other groups was the element that helped to prolong Ibo resistance.

Until the late Murtala Muhammed enacted the decree carving out seven more states from Gowon's original 12, there was still the fear that the Ibos would soon reemerge as a dominant influence, if not in politics, at least in commerce and industry.

The Ibos are not keen to return to the political limelight. Although well-known Ibo politicians such as Dr K. O. Mbadie, Dr J. O. U. Okezie, Dr H. U. Nzeribe, Mr C. C. Onoh and promising newcomers such as Chief Joudouji and ex-colonel Hilary Njoku have been returned to the Constituent Assembly now considering Nigeria's new constitution for a return to civilian rule, it is generally accepted that no Ibo is seriously in the running for federal leadership.

The race for the presidency is going to be between the Yorubas and Hausas and the minority ethnic groups. But Ibos could well become the kingmakers because contestants for supreme office would be canvassing them for support.

The immediate concern of the Ibos remains the rebuilding of their war-shattered

economy. They have accepted military defeat gracefully—and their conquerors have been magnanimous in their victory—and are quickly regaining their old confidence. Most of the pre-war industries in the heartland of Biafra, which suffered the worst devastation in the war, were reactivated within five years of the end of the war in 1970.

Among the war-damaged industries that are back in full production are the Nigeria Construction and Furniture Company at Enugu; Textile Printers at Onitsha; Nigeria Cement Company, Nkalagu; Nigeria Steel Company at Emena; near Enugu; Independence Brewery at Umuhia; Aba Textile Mills at Aba; Modern Ceramics at Umuhia and Modern Shoes Industry at Owerri.

In the past two years new industries and factories have been springing up everywhere. Elsewhere in the country, the Ibos are active in the road haulage business and in the service industries.

As in the past, Lagos is again teeming with Ibo clerks and artisans and the high streets are again being dominated by Ibo-owned lock-up shops and stalls. The Ibos are also in public relations, advertising and business and industrial consultancy. Most of the new periodicals and magazines in Nigeria are either owned by Ibos or are edited and managed by them.

However, the break up of the Central-Eastern state into two seems to have produced a new kind of Ibo entrepreneur. The new men are still acquisitive, and combative and still possess that alchemy that seems to turn anything into gold. But the anecdote is gone.

Whereas in the past Ibos, particularly the so-called

non-Onitsha Ibos, went everywhere acquiring property and flaunting their wealth in the faces of those in whose lands they lived, they are now more cautious where they acquire property and how they show their wealth. Although they are again moving out to other parts of the country, including the northern states from which they were chased in 1966-67, they are not yet settling there in large numbers as in the past. Now they are itinerant businessmen, with their homes and operational headquarters in their home states.

An even more remarkable development is that the Ibos, especially those of Anambra state, have learnt to enjoy themselves and dress well—and expensively too. No longer do they hoard money waiting to buy up the land and property of other Nigerians when they are broke.

Ibo businessmen and other professionals visiting Lagos or other cities for business no longer "squat" with their brothers, distant cousins and other relations in their one-room apartments as a means of saving money. Now they take the best suites in leading hotels, spending their money freely on their friends and on themselves.

The only area where Ibos are refusing to go is the Rivers state, where the issue of Ibo property abandoned during the war is still unresolved. Ibo property abandoned in Port Harcourt, capital of the Rivers state, is valued at between £50m and £200m.

Ibo property abandoned in other parts of the federation has been returned to its owners. But the Rivers state authorities have maintained that claimants to property in their area have not produced

satisfactory proof of ownership. Some properties have been acquired compulsorily by the state government, and natives of the state have been allowed to occupy others without paying rent. In his 1973-74 budget speech, Mr Ukpabi Asika, the administrator of the then Central-Eastern state, described the abandoned property issue as "an ugly cancer which threatens in its predictable consequences to undermine and invalidate all that had been achieved since the end of the war."

The position has changed little since then and for most Ibos the abandoned property question is the thing that most reminds them that they lost the civil war. The other reminder of the war is the very poor state of the roads in the two states.

Perhaps the Port Harcourt experience is the main reason Ibos are reluctant to acquire property outside their own states. As a result, building and construction has become the chief activity in the private sector in Anambra and Imo states. The main towns, such as Owerri, Orlu, Okigwi and Aba in Imo state, and Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, Ihiala and Enugu in Anambra state, are already becoming over-congested with new, unplanned buildings and factories.

It would appear that the two states are engaged in a competition to see which will develop faster. It is a competition other Nigerians welcome not so much because it confines the Ibos to their own states as because rivalry between the Ibos states is seen as a healthy omen for the future of Nigeria.

The author is editor, New African Development.

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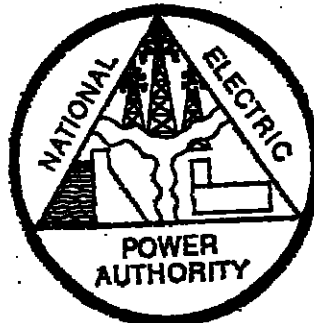
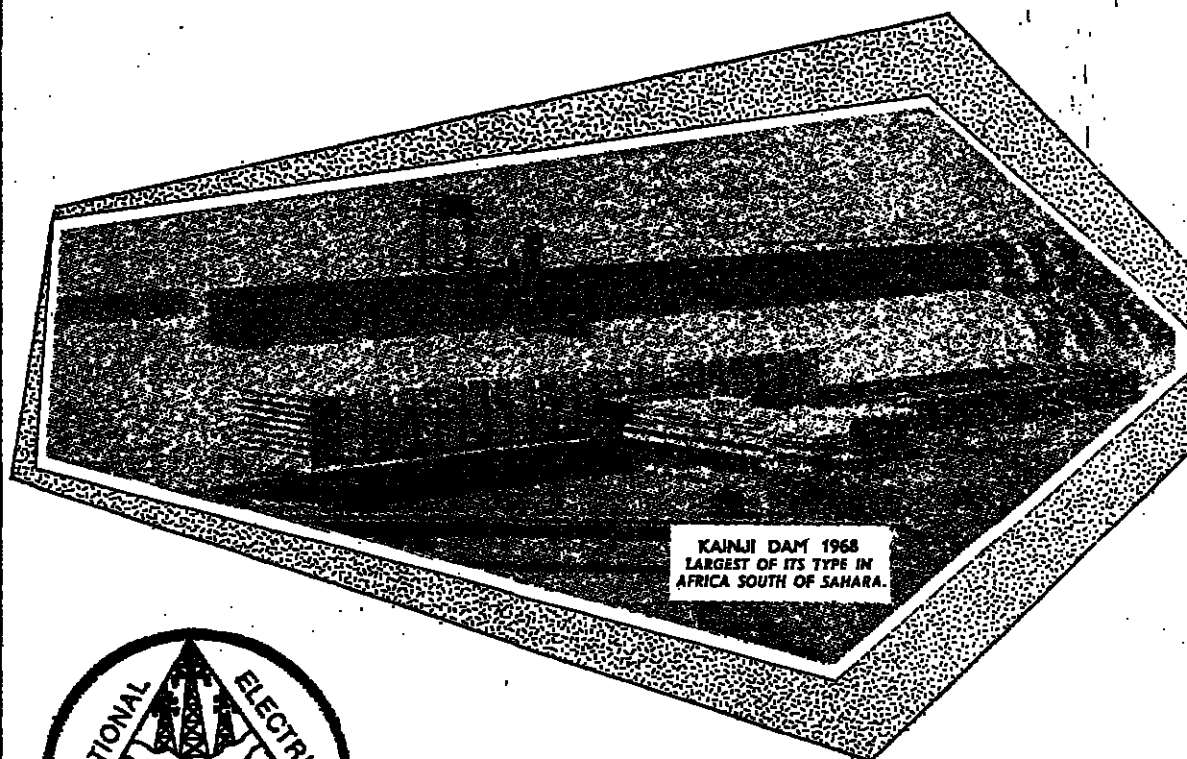


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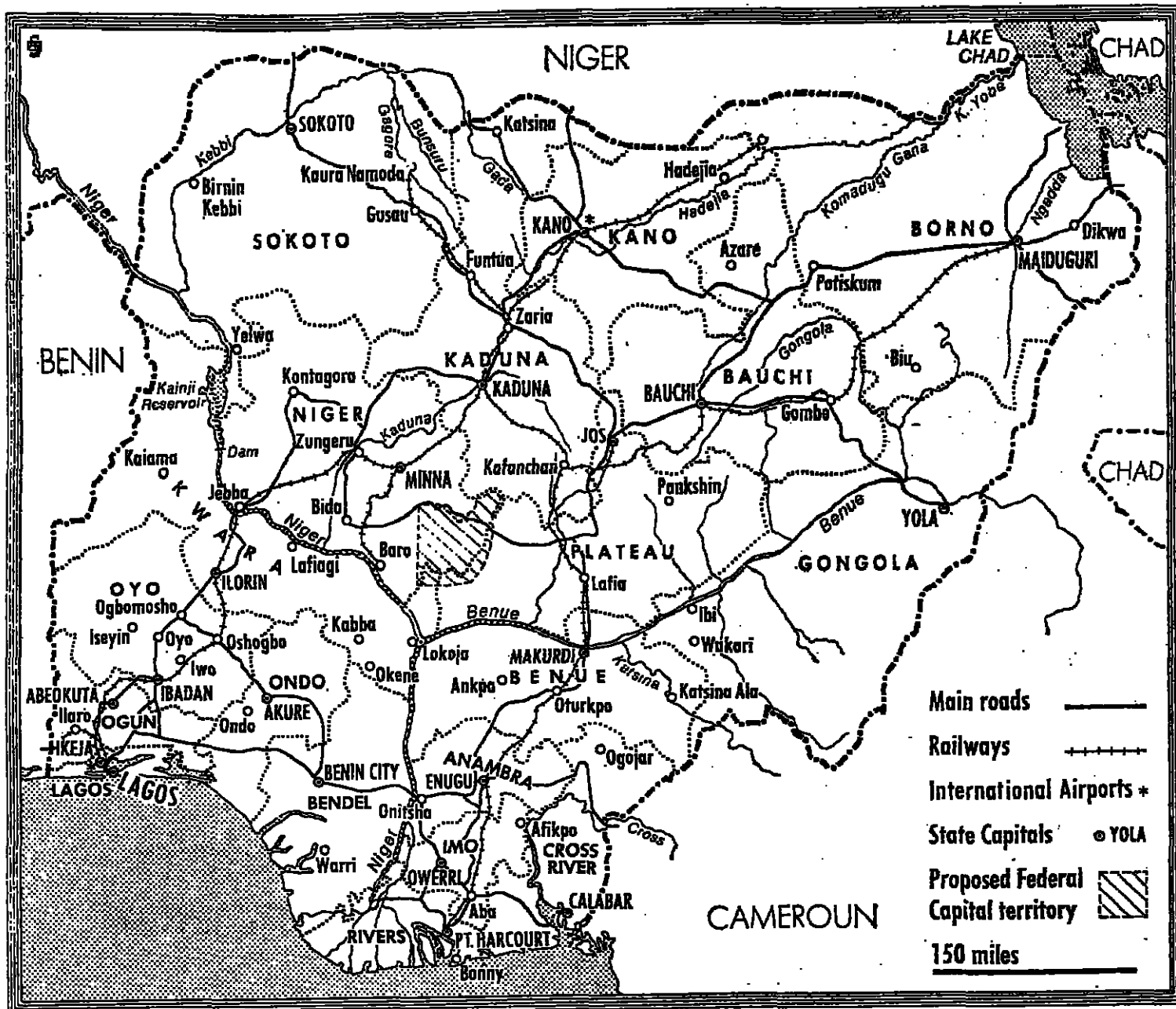


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Left: work goes ahead on the Lagos/Ibadan expressway: Above left: "The Awakening", a bronze symbolic of the renewal of independence. Above right: traffic in the centre of Lagos. Top: Lagos regatta.

LAGOS City hurries to improve

by Peter Hill

Lagos is the nightmare that is becoming merely a bad dream. The traffic chokes the roads and streets of the federal capital, compounding the already debilitating climate with exhaust fumes; the telephone system is as temperamental as a prima donna; the taxi-drivers model their driving style on that of Nicki Lauda and have developed a car horn Morse code to carve their way through the packed streets—they are all familiar and accepted features of life in Lagos.

The shortcomings are recognized and significant improvements have been made over the past two years, but Lagos is a city in a hurry, seething with people and stretching at its seemingly elastic seams so that the benefits of a much-improved road system have not yet been realized.

No one knows exactly how many people live (and many simply exist) in the Lagos conurbation. Maps still issued by the Lagos state Government quote a figure of some 665,000 people based on the 1963 census—but even on a conservative basis most would put the capital's population at more than five times that figure.

It is a city of stark and quite dramatic contrasts. On Ibeju and Victoria Islands, populated by a high proportion of expatriates and extremely wealthy Nigerians, large stockbroker-belt mansions with carefully nurtured gardens stand out as tangible evidence of the wealth which has been created in the wake of Nigeria's emergence as black Africa's super power.

Yet only a few miles away along the soaring, arching elevated roadways, which snake through and over the sprawling city, in the suburbs of Mushin or Ajegunle, hundreds of thousands of people are living in shanties, and families are crowded into tiny "boyes".

The stench of open drains and piles of refuse rotting is all pervasive. In short, the conditions are appalling, but the people survive, but the pressure on Lagos grows and grows as increasing numbers of Nigerians flock from the hinterland to the capital city, as they have done for generations. Roads which curve their way through the sprawling conurbation have provided accommodation for

thousands of people. Traders have established their stands beneath the thunder of the traffic overhead and remain apparently unmoved and oblivious to it.

Overcrowded conditions and the difficulties of actually getting to work were among the factors which led the Lagos state Government to transfer the state capital to Ikeja, more than 10 miles from the city of Lagos.

Lagos remains the magnet for millions of Nigerians and foreign businessmen despite its considerable privations. But even the Nigerian businessmen are becoming concerned at the tension which the city's conditions create.

Considerable progress has been made in the past two years to relieve the congestion. The as yet uncompleted inner ring road is having a beneficial effect on reducing congestion in the

central part of the city. The road traffic edict under which cars with odd and even number registration plates are allowed on the roads on alternate days has also helped to alleviate it.

For those who can afford a second car (and they are not few) the edict enforced by civil and military police armed with *kobekos* has not proved too onerous.

Further improvements to promote the freer flow of traffic and reduce the accident toll form a feature of the state Government's policies. New car parks are planned along with parking and terminal facilities for heavy commercial vehicles.

Additional vehicles are being bought for the understaffed and overstretched Lagos city transport service with the aim of developing a "park and ride" system to make some areas of metropolitan

Lagos free of vehicles at particular times of the day.

In the present financial year the Lagos state Government plans to spend a total of N474.5m in both recurrent and capital expenditure with the highest outlays being made on education, health and public works. A total of N22m is being spent on the construction of additional (and much needed) low-income housing units.

Federal government assistance will amount to N62.8m in the course of the year.

Determined efforts are being made to clean up the city and present a more acceptable face to other parts of the country and the outside world. Budget provisions include the construction of two substantial incinerators and a combined incineration and composting

plant. It will be a long, hard haul.

Yet, having identified the priority for action to transform the city's unenviable image and recognized the monumental tasks which face them, the state Government's planners are considering the development of a holiday resort on Topo island to attract both local and international tourists.

The wisdom of federal government plans for spending huge sums on the establishment of a new federal capital in the centre of the country has been questioned. Similarly, there must be many residents in the socially deprived areas of Lagos who would prefer to see even more emphasis placed on tackling the more fundamental questions of Lagos state than on tourist developments.

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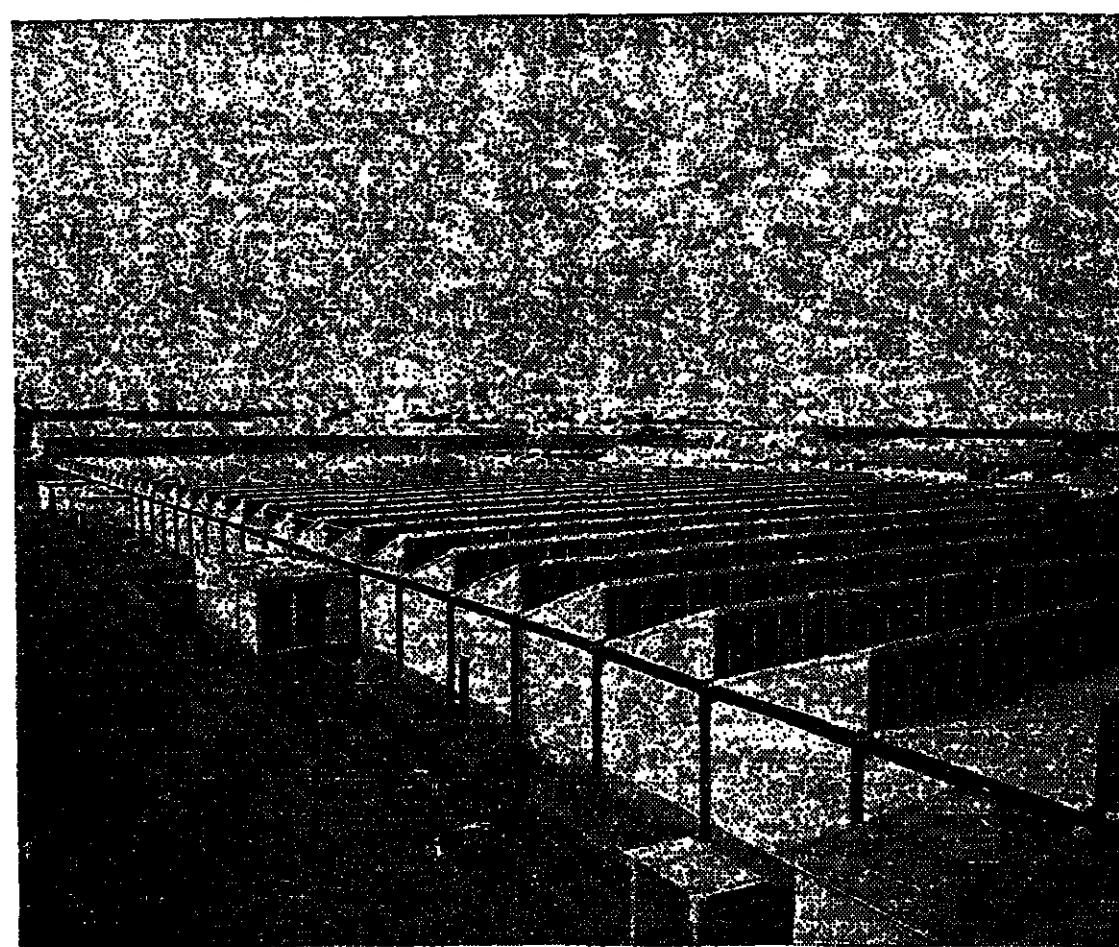
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BENUE AND PLATEAU

Tiv and Idoma are given chance to realize potential

Martin Dent

From the boundary of the former eastern Region 100 miles south of the Benue river to the highest point of the Jos plateau 300 miles to the north lies a part of Nigeria that has played a major role in the country's history.

This area of 40,000 sq miles, the former provinces of Benue and Plateau, stretches from the fertile plains of Tiv and Idoma south of the Benue, north across the sparsely populated areas of the other side of the river to the edge of the Jos plateau, and north to the highland grasslands around Jos.

At the time it produced nearly half of the fighting men of the Nigerian army, it was the first time its chance to make a political impact.

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ernmental tradition and political culture of the Muslim emirates of the far north, it was hoped that they would more than make up for this in their fresh energy and desire for education and development. In all-Nigerian terms the promise was fulfilled.

General Gowon came from an area where the Hausa culture of the Muslim north met with the Christian culture of his own people. He was a man of the minorities and a northerner at the same time. His background and his character combined to enable him to give the leadership that Nigeria so desperately needed to preserve its unity and then to welcome back the Ibos.

In this task he was assisted by other Benue-Plateau figures such as the late chief of staff, Joe Akpan, the Federal Commissioner, Tarka, and the head of the federal foreign service, Edwin Ogburn.

Joe has always been a cosmopolitan city with a liberal ethos composed as it is almost exclusively of "strangers to the soil". Before the war the Ibos had comprised more than half the population and when it was over Gowon, the state governor, hastened to welcome them back. Likewise Makurdi, the town in Benue, rapidly recovered its Ibo inhabitants.

Internally, however, the state fared less well. Gowon, a graduate who had eventually joined the police, came from the same Angas people as General Gowon. The peoples of Plateau are more tribally varied and less numerous than those of Benue. The Ibo alone numbered more than 200,000. The Angas, the Yergam, the Sura, the Ankwa, the people of Wase and a host of other small groups with their separate identity contrasted with the large tribal groups of Benue, the Tiv and the Idoma.

The Tiv numbered nearly two million out of the four million or five million people in the state. They were

feared by their Plateau neighbours because of their intense sense of identity, their thrust and vigour and their physical expansion, as Tiv farmers living in their family compounds of deep thatched huts spread out into neighbouring lands.

Relations in the state deteriorated, as did those between the Federal Commissioner, Tarka, from Tiv, and the Governor, Gowon, from Plateau. Allegations of corruption soon followed a bid to remove tribal favouritism, and the Tiv and Idoma began to feel themselves subject to discrimination.

Courage to denounce corruption

The bogus company Votenski, whose directors were personalities in Jos close to the Governor, siphoned off a lot of state finance and produced no finished contracts. Finally the denunciation by General Gowon of the Tiv racket and businessman Aki, who had the courage to denounce Gowon's corruption in detail by affidavit, signalled the end of the regime. He has quarrelled with each other Benue and Plateau lost their leadership.

However, the people benefited from the corrective policies of Murtala Muhammad, General Gowon's successor. A new and sympathetic governor, Muhammad Abdullahi from Ilorin, took Gowon's place and the corruptions of the old regime were investigated, made public and corrected. The assets of Votenski were seized.

Relations became much less tense but when the Ibo commission arrived to hear evidence for the creation of more states Benue was found to be willing to continue the association but Plateau was not and the state had to be divided.

The commission had the courage to make radical boundary changes. The Jarawa people of the east of the plateau were excised from Bauchi emirate and joined the peoples of Plateau, with whom they had

far more in common. The small emirates of Lafia, Nasarawa and Keffi were taken out of Benue and joined to Plateau.

Wubari, despite its majority of Tiv population, was removed from Benue and added to Gongola to the east. Benue was, however, much enriched by the addition to the state of the dynamic and developed people of Igala, whose territory stretches as far as the east bank of the Niger and who had felt a little left out in the predominantly Yoruba character of Kwara to which they had previously belonged.

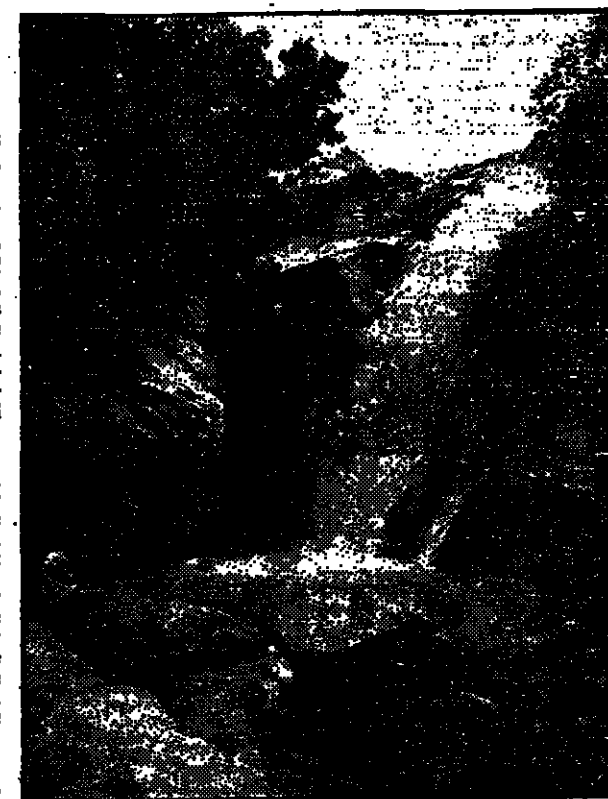
Makurdi, so long neglected as a town, became at last a centre and headquarters for a state government and the Tiv and Idoma have found their chance to show what they can do in a state in which they are no longer bereft of power. Both Benue and Plateau have military governors from outside the states appointed by the Federal Government, but otherwise the senior people are representative of all parts of the state.

Jos, the capital of Plateau, was founded for tin, and the tin-mining community left its mark in the straggling houses and gardens, the layout and in better facilities than those in any other comparable town in Nigeria.

Its social structure is peculiarly liberal and cosmopolitan. It combines intense civic vitality and corporate sense with the existence of effective ethnic associations among its inhabitants, who keep closely to those of their own group and expect to return to their home areas when they retire.

However, the effect is not divisive because of the number of cross-cutting associations of a religious, social, economic or sporting kind, and because of the wisdom of each group in cooperating with others.

The tin wealth of Jos has declined. Once the most important mineral in the Nigerian national economy, tin now produces less than 4 per cent of the wealth generated in oil. Production has sunk from nearly 20,000 tons at the peak to less than 5,000. But still employs nearly 20,000 labourers and technicians and 1,000 or so freelance "tributors", who



The Jos Falls. Tourism in the area is hampered by emphasis on hotels of international standard rather than on package tours and cheaper accommodation.

pan on their own and sell to the companies.

With the present dramatic rise in the prices it may be possible to inject new life into the industry and to develop deeper ore strata as the old become exhausted. Nigeria produces only about 3 per cent of world supply, and any expansion involves an increase in the quota under the Tin Agreement. Joe tin is smelted locally at Makara.

The town is also an industrial and training centre and has a fair amount of light industry — tyre re-treading, soft drinks and so on. There is a proposal for a brewery. With a population of not much more than 100,000 Jos is not among the largest towns in Nigeria, but its potential is enormous.

The achievement of that potential involves efficient operation of basic services. Jos University was started in 1975 and the present Vice-Chancellor is an Ibo professor of medicine. In time it will no doubt draw on the enormous potential of both Plateau and Benue. In the 13 years from independence to 1973 their secondary school population rose from 800 to 12,000 and continues to increase rapidly.

With the launching of universal primary education in the 1975-80 development plan, the two states are expected to build 12,000 primary school classrooms and to employ 450,000 people. The teacher training, secondary and university expansion will require the recruitment of a large number of expatriate staff on contract.

Local agriculture is not as yet very productive in food or cash crops for sale but large-scale dairy enterprises have produced good results, and there is no reason why, given proper husbandry, the highlands of the plateau should

not develop some of the great agricultural productivity of Kenya.

Tourism has considerable potential. There is attractive scenery and much cultural richness in crafts and pottery, in but architecture and in song and dance available for study in and near Jos. The remarkable collection of terra cotta heads from the Nok culture, which flourished as early as 500 BC on the plateau, made by Bernard Fagg, is on display in the museum. The Kuru Falls near Jos are magnificent but tourism is made more difficult by the emphasis on international standard hotels at exorbitant prices rather than on middle-range accommodation and package tours. The difficulty of getting tourist visas is another obstacle.

In political terms Plateau is trying to recover from the effects of the executions which followed the mad and murderous abortive coup of Dimka, an Angas officer who killed Murtala Muhammad and attempted to seize power in February last year. About half the 50 military and civilian figures tried and executed came from Plateau and included Gowon, the former governor, as well as Bisalla, the Federal Commissioner for Defence. Gowon's sister-in-law, Helen, was imprisoned for life as the alleged "courier of the coup".

There are still important personalities from Plateau in public life. Garba, the former head of the Federal Guard and now Federal Commissioner for External Affairs, comes from Lowland Plateau and is Division in Plateau and is one of the few military figures who could, if he wished, take off his uniform in 1979 and contest elections with some hope of winning. But perhaps he will prefer a military career.

Bishop Gonska of Jos is one of the outstanding figures in the Roman Catholic church and exercises wide influence in the community as a whole. A Plateau man has also been appointed to the military governorship of another state.

Benue state faces the problem of creating an identity that will transcend tribal ties and overcome

distrust. The same nation-building skill which is required at the national level to bring disparate peoples together and give them a sense of common belonging is needed just as much at the state level.

This kind of skill will be more than ever necessary with the return to civilian rule and the presidential and gubernatorial elections. In the latter there is only one vote, instead of a runoff system, and no requirement to show a spread of support. The candidate with the largest vote will win and it is therefore possible for a person to win the governorship by the support of the largest tribe alone.

It is important that the political leaders should show the necessary ability in forming party alliances and perhaps trading off support for the candidate from one tribe at the federal level for that of another at the state governorship level.

Capital to get an airstrip

Makurdi, capital of the state, is acquiring a large airstrip and an impressive set of government offices, not to mention a brewery. It already has Murtala College of Further Technical Education, which may one day become the nucleus for a new university.

With the division of Tiv into six divisions and of Idoma into two the headquarters of each new division becomes a nucleus for development. Boko, the former capital of all-Tiv, has grown with great rapidity and Adikpo, nicknamed by its inhabitants as their London, is at last ceasing to be only a very small town.

The Tiv and Idoma areas have enormous agricultural potential as exporters of yams and rice to more urban areas, especially to Iboland. One can always tell Tiv farming land by the great size of the yam heaps. The old cash crops of beniseed and soyabean have been almost entirely replaced by cultivation of food crops for sale.

In industrial terms Benue was one of the most deprived areas in Nigeria, until the advent of the Murtala Muhammad government. Then at last approval was given for the huge cement works at Yandev, which has now been built and will begin work as soon as electric power reaches the site and the Makurdi-Boko road is brought up to standard.

The limestone is of the highest quality and plenty of industrious labour and technical skill are available, but for 10 years the scheme has been held up by political jealousies. It has a potential capacity of 600,000 tons a year (almost equal to Nigeria's entire cement consumption at independence) for 50 years.

Other projects are also to be built in the state—a ceramic factory, a brickworks and a brewery. Wherever one goes in Tiv people remark with pride on how changed the towns are since colonial days when I was first there. To the Tiv industrial, commercial and educational advances new buildings and new roads are not just conveniences or sources of income but valued symbols of achievement and modernity.

The full potential of these two states is only just beginning to be developed. Several of its personalities are playing a leading role in the Constituent Assembly now in session, especially Justin Tseyo, the first Tiv professor and head of the sociology department at Jos.

With the return of civilian rule there will be plenty of new contenders for office as well as the older figures such as Tarka. However, whatever happens, it is vital that Tiv should not go back to ruinous internal political quarrels.

It is even more important that all the politicians of Benue and of Plateau should learn to build the alliance which they need if they are to play an important part in helping Nigeria with good leadership.

The author, a former District Officer in Tiv Division, is a lecturer in politics at Keele University and the author of a number of works on Nigeria.

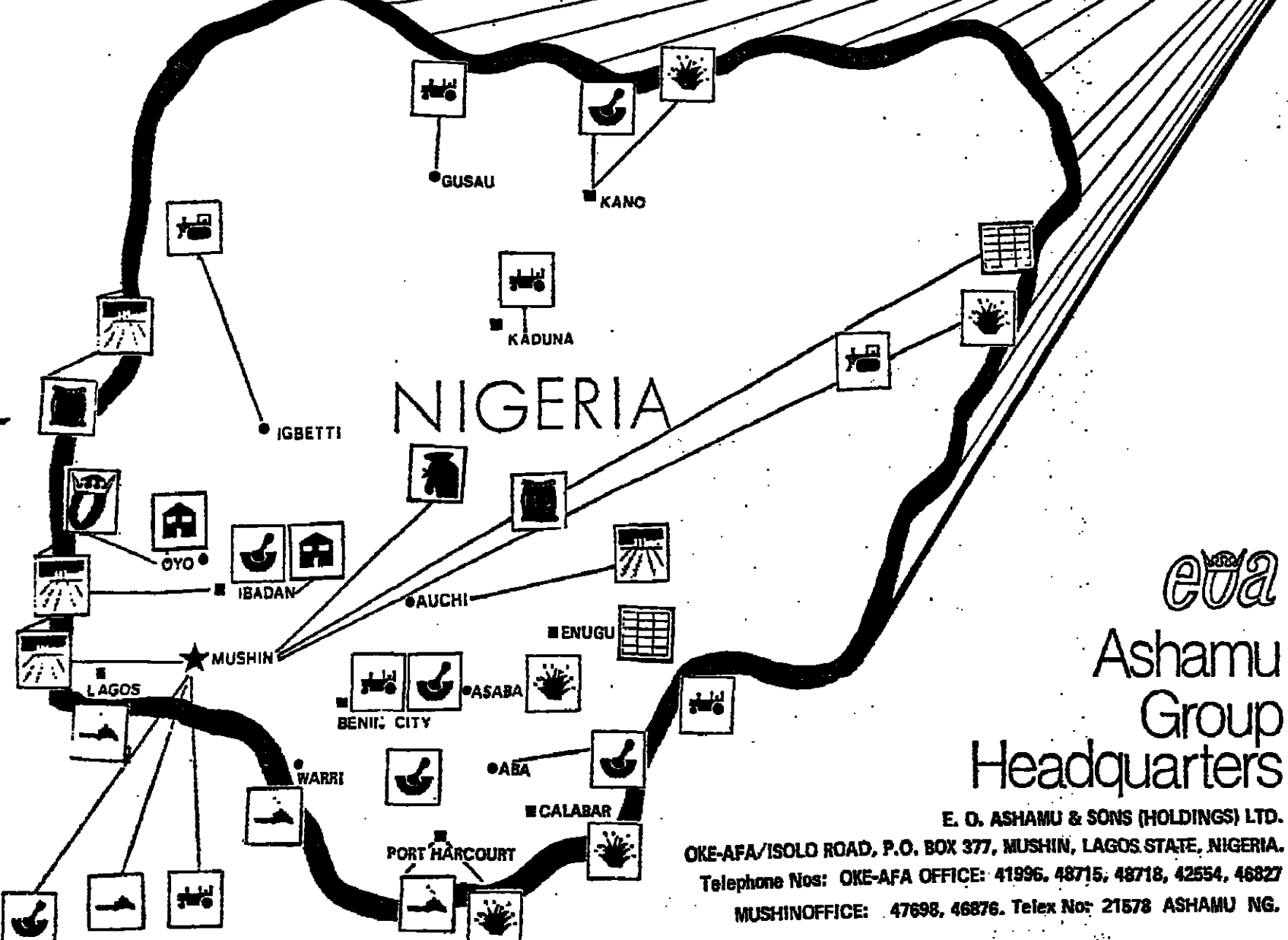
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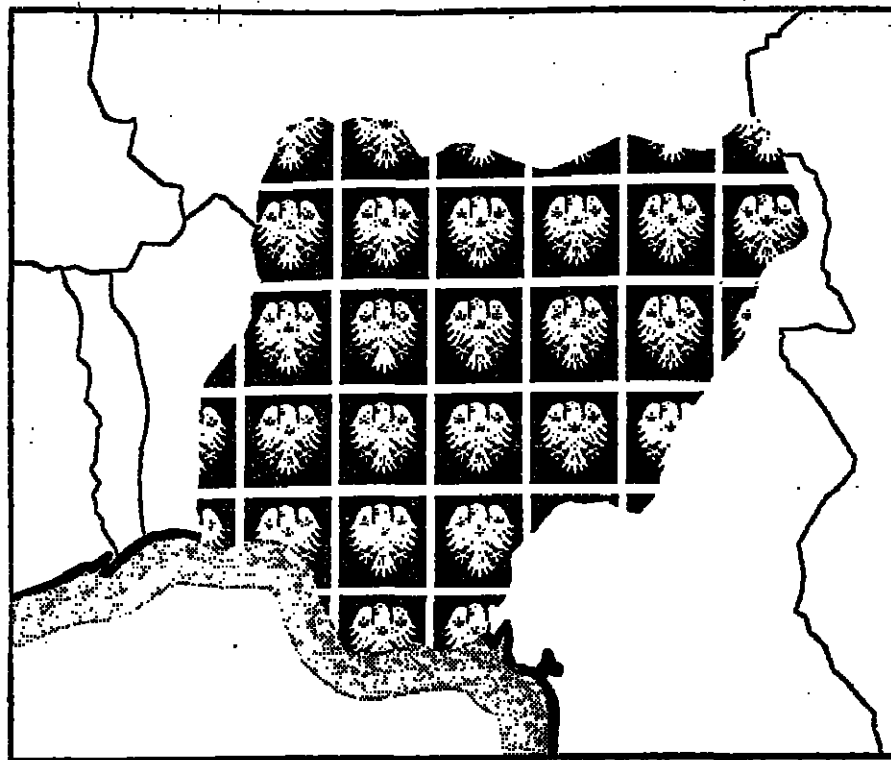
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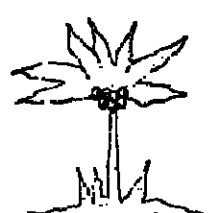
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SOKOTO

Education and industry reach isolated seat of Islam

by Edward Poultney

Sokoto state, gateway to north-western Nigeria and formerly one of the most isolated regions of the federation, is learning fast to accommodate its traditional custody of the seat of Islam in Nigeria with a desperate need for modern secular education and industrialisation.

The home of Sultan Abubakar III, descendant of the Islamic reformer Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio and spiritual leader of all Nigerian Muslims, Sokoto has existed as a state only since February 1976, when, with Niger state to the south, it was created from the former North-western state.

The fact that Sokoto city was the capital of the former north-west and could therefore accommodate the physical needs of the new administration has barely compensated for the loss of the functionaries of Niger state origin who moved to Minna to set up their own government organisation. Although the two states still operate some common services it will take several years for Sokoto to be able to meet fully its own manpower needs.

In a country seeking to cement its post-civil war unity before the programmed return to civilian rule in October 1979 it has become unfashionable to talk of ethnic composition in political terms. However, it is impossible to describe the Sokoto Government's efforts to match the rapid progress of the rest of the federation without mentioning that the proud traditions of the Fulani and Hausa peoples, who made Sokoto one of Africa's great cities in pre-colonial times, had, until recently, led traditional rulers to discourage foreign ways.

The official figure for the

state's population remains the 1963 census figure of about 4,500,000. (The late head of state, General Murtala Muhammad, cancelled the discredited 1973 census and ordered the earlier figures to be used for planning purposes.) But a quick tally of the estimated population in each of the 19 local government administrations in the state produces a total of about 6,500,000.

The state Governor, Colonel Umaru Abasiyemi, has made education the first priority in a government area which, more than any other in the federation, is suffering from a critical manpower shortage at the technical and middle executive levels. All the ministries are badly understaffed, the ultra-modern television station is working successfully with less than half its complement, and several departments of the young university, just beginning its first academic year, have only one lecturer. The problems of services and communications which confronted Sokoto state when it was created last year are gradually being overcome by short and medium-term capital investment schemes under the present five-year development plan. A new visitor is surprised by the greenness and well-watered public gardens of the capital city of one of Nigeria's driest states.

The roads—north to Niger and the Sahel and south to Zaria, Kaduna and the coast—are good enough to carry the overland freight convoys from Europe and still attract travellers away from the hassle of domestic flying, and the rural electrification programme should bring power to 11 additional cities within the present financial year.

In statistical terms, Sokoto has in only two years more than quadrupled the number of children going into pri-



Hundreds of fishermen, using hollow gourds as combined buoys and containers, plunge into the river during the annual fishing festival at Argungu, south-west of Sokoto. The heaviest catch wins a prize.

mary school. From a first-year intake of just over 22,000 in 1975 the figure has jumped to about 100,000 last September. This is mainly because of the launching of the federal Government's universal primary education scheme, but the scheme would have been by far less successful without the active support of the state Government. A significant number of the new pupils are girls whose mothers and older sisters are in pursuit.

The total of 2,500 primary schools (an increase of 804 over the number existing

only a year ago) now holds almost 278,000 children, and as far as possible the education authorities are holding the size of classes down to a maximum of 40 children.

This is not always possible because of a shortage of both teachers and classrooms, and the Ministry can not afford to turn people away after months of persuading parents to send their children to school.

The bottleneck comes at the end of the primary education period, for at the moment the state has only 27 secondary schools with an enrolment of about 20,000 stud-

ents, plus 25 teachers' training colleges. Until last year there were only four secondary schools for girls.

At the further education level, Sokoto has so far provided only 85 students for the technical manpower training courses which in the past few weeks have seen several thousand young Nigerians flying to Europe and the United States for specialist courses.

For the time being the state can look forward to increasing its qualified labour force by hundreds rather than by the thousands it needs, but enthusiasm and dedica-

tion are helping to fill some of the gaps. One technician in the television's colour film developing room worked a 10-hour six-day week for three months with his only colleague was on a course in Belgium. Meanwhile 80 per cent of the population is still working the land, where agricultural production is divided between subsistence and cash crop farming.

Like the other northern-most states of Nigeria, Sokoto has suffered from the tragic Sahel drought, which in neighbouring countries has seen the destruction of thousands of cattle and the break-up of established communities.

The final section of the report looks at contemporary cultural activities in the west, north and east of the federation

YORUBAS

Old crafts come to terms with modern ways

by Kevin Carroll

The Yoruba, 12 million strong, are the chief people of south-west Nigeria. Their traditional arts survive with varying degrees of vitality beside sophisticated modern art.

The most notable craft is woodcarving. In the Yoruba carving tradition was the most vigorous in Africa. But about hundreds of carvers washed early this century. It is said that we could find 50 today. They worked for the chiefs, the cults and the people.

Nowadays, however, chiefs build in modern materials and feel little need for carved pillars and doors. Orders to the carvers from the cults have become a trickle as most Yoruba are now, nominally at least, Muslim or Christian.

Along the border of Dahomey, now called Benin, the Egbado Yoruba carvers still produce cult objects. Their Gelede masks represent not only traditional subjects but also lorries and aircraft, prominent politicians and Christian subjects. Among the Egbado Yoruba at Abeokuta, there is a guild of carvers working for both the cults and the tourist trade.

But it is the carvers of Ekiti in north-east Yoruba who have most successfully adapted to the new Nigeria. The church was the first to give them modern patronage when, 50 years ago, Bandle was asked to carve Christian subjects. He was the son of Aregun of Ode, one of the greatest Yoruba carvers known by name to the outside world. Increasing orders prompted Bandle to take on as assistant Lamidi, son of a noted carver, Fakaye of Ife Orangun.

Bandle remains a member of the traditional religion and Lamidi is a devout Muslim. Alongside their Christian carving, both continued to produce for the chiefs and the cults, though orders from these sources were few.

Several years later, as their work became more widely known, they were given contracts for work on official buildings, for example, pillars and doors for the Idena gatehouse of the Ode's palace at Ife, in 1953. Chief Awolowo, the first Premier of the Western Region, encouraged the use of Yoruba art, and in 1956 Lamidi Fakaye carved the furniture for the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs at Ibadan, as well as panels for the Premier's office.

Encouraged by improved prospects, Bandle and Lamidi took on apprentices. After their three years' training, these apprentices would come to work with their masters as journeymen assistants until they found their own feet and went off to start their own workshops.

Now 50 or more carvers of the Ode school can be found, many of them working in the big centres—Lagos, Ibadan, Oyo, Ilorin, Ife, Oshogbo—and each with his own market.

A considerable amount of their work is sold to foreigners, but increasingly, contracts come from state and church and other sources within Nigeria.

After the introduction of universal primary education in southern Nigeria 25 years ago, most of the younger car-



Right: Daniel Bamidele working on a cement mural for the Ibadan Cultural Centre. Traditional woodcarvers find it easy to transfer their skill to fresh cement. Top: another of his murals for the centre representing Yoruba musicians and dancers. Above: one of a set of Stations of the Cross, the burial of Jesus, carved by Joseph Imale.

vers are now literate, and some go on to secondary school, making money by carving in their spare time. One of Bandle's sons, Gabriel, went on to study fine arts at Zaria University and is now a lecturer there. His younger brother, Michael, a brilliant carver, is doing fine arts in the same university.

During the holidays they often work with their father in the forest, and recently Gabriel carved me blunders in his hands, complaining that they became soft during the term. These two carvers link the old Yoruba carving tradition with the world of international art, and it will be interesting to watch their progress.

Textile crafts continue to flourish, as even the most sophisticated person will want a range of traditional robes. Industry produces imitations of the old textiles, but cannot imitate the beautiful "crusty" effect of the handwoven. There is probably far more handweaving today than there was 100 years ago. The weavers cannot compete with modern looms in the production of cheap cloth, but they have found their place in the luxury market.

Thirty years ago most women wove their indigo and white striped cloth at home on the vertical, broad-loom. Now the use of this loom is restricted to certain areas. Okene, an Igbira village on the borders of Yoruba land, is a flourishing centre for women's home-

weaving and a large amount of brilliant Okene cloth is sold all over Nigeria. There is no similar large centre in Yoruba land, but the women continue to weave in many places; for example in Ilesha where they weave cloth with the lizard and frog patterns used by local chiefs and certain cults.

Most of the hand-woven cloth today is produced on the men's narrow loom. There are weavers' guilds in many towns, and in the large town of Ilesha weaving is the men's chief occupation. In Ilorin, a state capital, in the old town away from the bustle of the modern city and the noise of taxis, hundreds of the brightly coloured warps can be seen stretched across the open spaces, to be folded and taken in at night.

The classical cloths are still made: red *alari*, fawn *sanyan* and indigo and white *enu*. But cotton spun and dyed in Nigerian mills has replaced the hand-spun cotton (unless by special order) and weavers make free use of metallic thread, rayon and polymer fibres.

Yoruba attire, the famous indigo and white resist-dyed *adire*, is still popular and is sold all over West Africa. Central Abeokuta is one great dyeing factory pervaded by the smell of dye pots, with cloths spread over rocks and poles to dry. Indigo, although fast to washing, is unfortunately not fast to rubbing. So groups of educated women in several towns have set up home industries to produce tie and resist-dyed cloth using imported vat dyes.

Embroidery is also a thriving craft, whether the very expensive handwork or the much cheaper work done on special sewing machines. The main types of pattern used are the Indian interlaced *sho*, or modern arabesques made popular through the annual pilgrimages to Mecca. Traditional embroidery forms are becoming popular for church use, and a Dominican brother and several Nigerian sisters now produce Nigerian vestments.

Beadwork, using the small seed beads imported for centuries from Europe, was a craft recently rigidly controlled by the chiefs, and the beadworkers made crowns, staffs and other ceremonial objects for the royal household: but now commoners bring orders direct to the craftsmen, and in recent years much work has come from the many modern dance groups which have sprung up.

Leatherwork, brass casting and calabash carving are moribund. Few orders for high quality work come from the traditional patrons in Nigeria, and the workers are satisfied with mediocre products.

Pottery, however, has not been made redundant by the profusion of modern utensils. As long as the women continue to cook over open fires they will continue to buy the traditional pots, which are both cheap and functional. Pots are produced in great numbers in many towns and villages, ranging from huge pots for indigo dyeing to the tiny decorated pots used in worshipping the river goddesses.

In some villages all the open spaces are covered with drying pots, and on market day they are stacked high ready to be packed into lorries. It is hard to understand how the pots can reach their destination with-

out being smashed on the poor roads.

Until fairly recently, it was taken for granted that European music would be used in Nigerian churches, and that all that was necessary was to translate the words suitably into Yoruba. In the first half of this century, certain churchmen, for example the Rev. Mr. Ransome-Kuti of Abeokuta, and Mr. T. K. Ehinola, the organist of the Anglican cathedral in Lagos, began to popularize more suitable music in Yoruba. They continued to use European scales and harmonies, however. This music had a wide success, which have grown rapidly in the past 30 years, make much use of Nigerian instruments and dance rhythms, but have been unwilling to adapt the real religious music of Yoruba tradition.

Mr. Joseph Ojo, a Roman Catholic teacher of Oye Ekiti, was, in 1947, the first to compose Christian music based on the beautiful religious music of the Yoruba cults. This music uses strong dance rhythms on occasion but has a wide range of function and feeling, and there is much eustere and moving chant. Mr. Ojo was unable to introduce his music directly into the churches at that time as the congregation would have condemned it as pagan. But he began to popularize it through the schools and through religious drama.

With the growth of national consciousness after independence there has been an explosion, as it were, of Yoruba church music, drawing on sources ranging from modern Yoruba pop to the deepest religious chants. New hymnbooks keep appearing all over the country and church authorities discuss whether there is any way to control this explosion without stifling the creativity.

In city churches with mixed congregations speaking several languages, much of the European music may survive. But in fully Yoruba-speaking churches, wherever the European music is not already extinct, it is being rapidly replaced by the new music.

The question of patronage is crucial for the development of Nigerian crafts. Craftsmen will not be able to get apprentices unless there are prospects of sufficient work. The textile crafts are flourishing because the early political leaders made the wearing of Nigerian dress a symbol of freedom. But woodcarving, the greatest of the Yoruba crafts, has not been sufficiently patronized in modern times.

The state and churches, banks and hotels, and more recently chiefs and private individuals, have given contracts to the carvers. But many new state buildings, churches and private mansions are being built, and a lot more work could be found for the carvers—as for other artists—in the decoration of these buildings and their furnishings.

The author, a Liverpool-born priest of the African Mission Society, has worked in West Africa since 1943. He was appointed by his society to study and experiment with Yoruba crafts and music from 1947 to 1954 and has continued his work with Yoruba artists since. He has written Yoruba Religious Carving, published by Chapman's in London in 1967.



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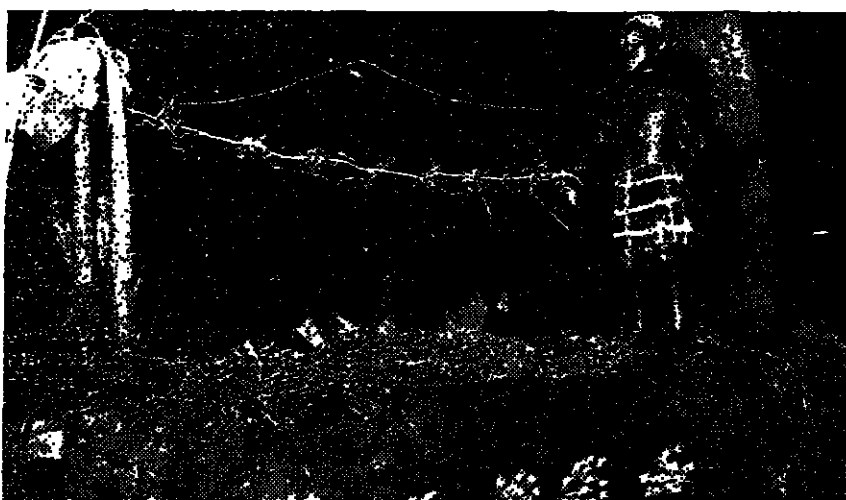
AGRICULTURE—To boost Operation Feed the Nation Campaign (OFN) land development scheme was introduced in the State. Picture shows a tractor clearing the land ready for planting.



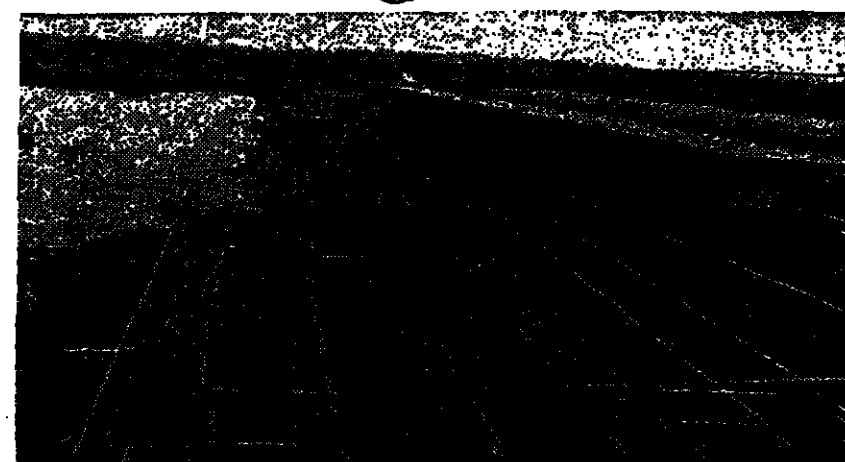
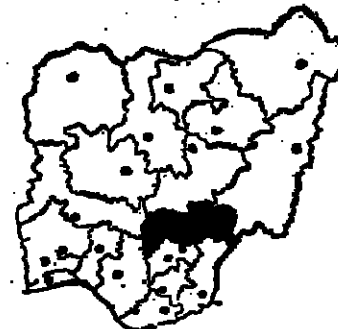
EDUCATION—With the introduction of UPE education is no longer the privilege of the rich few.



GOVERNOR—The Military Governor of Benue State, Colonel Abdullahi Shelleng who handles the affairs of the State.



CULTURE—The State is rich in culture. The Cultural Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Information entertains people in Makurdi to cultural nights.



ROADS—Communication is one of the problems faced by the State. In its effort to improve its roads the State has undertaken the building of several linking bridges. Here a multi-million naira bridge at Katsina-Ala.



TRADITIONAL RULERS—The three first class traditional rulers in Benue State. From left to right seated are the Atah of Igala, CBE, CON, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje; the Tor Vio, Mr. Gondo Alor and the Ochi Idoma, Mr. Abraham Ajane Ukpani.

BENUE STATE OF NIGERIA

EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF BENUE STATE
Benue State came into existence on 3rd February, 1976 when seven new states were created in Nigeria by the Federal Military Government.

It has an area of 69,740 square kilometres and a population of 3,041,194 (1963 population census). Almost rectangular in shape, Benue State is located in the middle of the country and is surrounded by six states of the Federation. The Plateau State lies to its north while it is surrounded in the south by Anambra and Cross River States. It has a common boundary with Gongola to the east and Bendel and Kwara States to the west.

MAIN FEATURES: The State derives its name from the River Benue which is also one of its main physical features. An important tributary of the River Benue is the River Katsina-Ala. The State stretches across the transition belt between forest and savanna consisting of undulating hills, grassy open spaces in the north and derived forests in the southern portion.

There are two marked seasons—a hot and dry season with short spell of harmattan (November-March) and a wet season. No part of the State suffers from extremes of temperature.

PEOPLE: There are three main ethnic groups: Tiv, Igala and Idoma. The bulk of Nigerian Armed Forces come from these practical and enterprising tribes. Almost 80% of the population engage in farming and given the abundance of fertile land that we have, it is not surprising that Benue State feeds a substantial portion of Nigeria. The main food crops are yams, guinea-corn, cassava, rice and maize; the major cash crops are beniseed, soyabean and cotton. The majority of the population are Christians.

INITIAL PROBLEMS: The State was one of the first of the new States to move into their Headquarters and started working. It was a period of sacrifice. Apart from the acute shortage of office and housing accommodation, there was the need to harmonize administrative practice, rules, and edicts inherited from Plateau and Kwara States to suit the needs of the new State.

It was necessary to provide office accommodation as a matter of urgency and contracts were awarded almost immediately for over 1,000 office units of simple structure at a cost of nearly N1 million. All of the offices have been completed and are now being used.

Next came the problem of providing reasonable housing for the staff. Contracts were soon given for the construction of about 200 Senior Staff Quarters and over 300 junior and intermediate staff quarters in Makurdi at a total cost of N7,500,000. This project was handled by indigenous contractors and several have been completed and allocated to officers.

In Local Government headquarters, about 80 senior staff quarters and about 200 junior and intermediate housing units are under construction. These are expected to be ready before the end of this year.

In addition, the Housing Authority, one of the thirteen parastatals set up by the State Government, is making arrangements to embark on the execution of the Federal and State Governments housing units for the masses.

WATER SUPPLY: To further improve the working and living conditions of the people in the State, the Government has made various contract awards for infrastructure. These include contracts for the expansion of water supply schemes for Makurdi which has raised water supply to 230,000 gallons per day. Expansion schemes in Idah and Ankpa are almost completed while work has started on the new water supply for Dekina. In addition, contract has been awarded for a 4 million gallons per day water supply scheme for Gboko-Yandev at a cost of N23 million. The scheme will also serve the proposed Cement Factory.

Eight other towns, including Oju, Adikpo, Vandeikya, Otukpa, Bush, Urunkan and Jato-Aku, are to be supplied through another contract award of nearly N3 million. Work on the water supply at Wannano, Zaki-Biam and Alade is almost completed while that of Igumale is progressing satisfactorily.

The State Government hopes to maintain this pace of development of water supply schemes so that by the end of the current plan period, water supply will no longer be a major problem in the State.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT: The State inherited a very poor network of roads and consequently the provision of good bitumen surfaced roads is one of its priorities. The State government has already awarded contracts for bitumen surfacing of the following roads:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a. Gboko-Adikpo-Jato-Aku for | N16 million |
| b. Ankpa-Gboko-Abajokolo for | N16 million |
| c. Abajokolo-Ile-Ayegba for | N14 million |
| d. Otukpa-Urunkan-Agila for | N11 million |
| e. Katsina-Ala-Jato-Aku for | N 8 million |
| f. Arufe-Arufe (an inheritance from former Equatorial Government) | N 7 million |
| g. Makurdi Township Roads and Drainage | N 6 million |

The Federal Government has also embarked on three federal government road programmes affecting Benue State to wit: Makurdi-Yandev, Ogoja-Katsina-Ala and Enugu-Otuko. These roads are presently under construction.

ELECTRICITY PROGRAMME: Benue State will derive some substantial benefits when the Federal Power Projects are completed. Transmission lines existing or under construction will connect some major towns such as Idah, Ankpa, Otukpa, Gboko, Katsina-Ala and Makurdi to the national grid system. It is hoped that these areas will be switched on by December this year.

Through its Rural Electricity Board the State Government recently awarded contracts for the supply of electricity to 16 towns at a total cost of N31 million.

In Makurdi, the State capital, a 3-megawatts power station is now under construction and the people of Makurdi will enjoy this Christmas with an undisturbed flow of electricity.

EDUCATION: Compared to other Northern States, we are advanced in education. Last September the Ministry of Education enrolled a total of 140,275 children into Year One for the launching of the UPE Scheme. This was twice the number of entrants for the previous school session.

At the moment there are 88 post-primary institutions as against 80 at the inception of the State, then largely controlled by either Voluntary Agencies, Communities or private individuals.

In order to harmonize and control these institutions more effectively, a State Schools Board was established. The State Schools Board has been able to arrest the unpleasant incidence of late payment of teachers' salaries.

Secondary Schools have been expanded to six streams in some cases to cater for ever increasing numbers of primary school leavers. Five new Secondary Schools recently admitted its first pioneering students.

Before the creation of new States last year, there was no single post-primary institution in Benue State. Now, there are three such institutions namely: the Advanced Teachers College, Katsina-Ala; the School of Basic Studies, Ugbokolo and the Murtala College of Arts, Science and Technology, Makurdi. Each of these institutions are one-year-old and opened with intakes of 500. The Federal College of Technology, Idah, started early September this year. The State Scholarship Board has awarded scholarships to over 1,900 qualified candidates in various fields, tenable in local or overseas institutions of Higher Learning.

Realizing the importance of education in the State the Government has set aside N101 million of its N302.6 million this financial year for the Ministry of Education. This places the Ministry on top of all others in the State's Financial Budget for this year.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Realizing that agriculture is the mainstay of the State's economy, the government has undertaken many projects aimed at assisting the farmers to attain better yields. These include the sale of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seedling at heavily subsidized rates as well as providing mechanized services to farmers.

It is expected that during this financial year, 32 metric tons of fertilizers would be acquired and distributed to the farmers; while some N1.5 million would be used for purchase of tractors and other agricultural machinery with which over 28,000 hectares of land will be put under cultivation annually for the production of yams, maize, guinea-corn, rice, cassava, millet and cash crops such as oil palm, cotton and coffee.

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) programme is receiving the attention the scheme deserves. Many communities, institutions and private individuals in the State have embraced the programme. But to further boost the spirit of the OFN, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has embarked on land clearing for farmers at minimal charges.

It is a fact that Benue State is one of Nigeria's major food producing areas and the inhabitants are renowned for their farming. The Government has therefore been trying to build on this tradition through programmes that would enable the farmers to help himself. In this direction, the Government has spent about N35 million on land clearing and development in all areas of the State. Commissioners responsible for Agriculture in the 19 States recently visited Benue State primarily to inspect and study this programme which is being widely acclaimed throughout the country.

The World Bank is sponsoring Avanza Agricultural Development Project, which will benefit the farming population of the people of the State.

The State Government has taken much keen interest in animal health and livestock. N6 million has been set aside for animal health projects in the State, which include poultry and pig-breeding development. Similarly, extension services to fishermen has been intensified with a view to ensure higher yields in fish production to tackle the problem of protein deficiency.

NATURAL RESOURCES: The State is blessed with abundant valuable but largely untapped mineral and natural resources. The different resources are summarized in the table below:

Minerals	Location	Possible Industry
Name	Okaba, Ankpa LGA	Chemicals, eg-Sulphuric Acid, Ammonia for preparing fertilizers, paints, mining, steel industry, domestic uses.
Cement	Okoko, Ankpa LGA, Ankpa, Dekina LGA, Otukpa, Otukpa in Okpokwu LGA	Concrete, cement, lime manufacture.
Marble	Yandev, Gboko LGA, Agila, Igumale in Okpokwu LGA, Elubu, Itobe, Idah LGA	Ceramics, building, carving, tiles, monuments, chemicals, paints manufacture.
Petroleum	Okogbo, Idah LGA	Refinery, petrol, kerosene, disinfectants, chemicals, etc.
Beniseed	Gboko, Makurdi and Katsina-Ala LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Soyabean	Same as above	Crushing for oil extraction.
Palm kernels	Otuoku, Dekina, Ankpa and Idah LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Palm oil	Same as above	Soap making, margarine.
Rice	All over the State	Rice mills.
Citrus fruits	Gboko, Katsina-Ala, Otukpa LGAs	Canning and bottling.
Cotton seed	Otuoku, Dekina LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Coffee (robusta)	Gboko, Katsina-Ala, Dekina LGAs	Beverages.
Livestock	All over the State	Abattoir, canning.
Goats and sheep		
Fish	Ponds, rivers, streams	Fish canning.
Pigs	All over the State	Canning.

COMMERCE: A total sum of N4.4 million has been earmarked for commerce out of which it is expected that a State Commercial Bank will be established at a cost of N1.4 million. Another N1.5 million will go into the construction of Co-operative Shops in major towns in the State. Apperits have been made for more commercial banks to open branches throughout the State in order to further boost the economy of the State.

At present there are ten commercial banks operating in the State: Barclays Bank has three branches in Makurdi, Gboko and Idah. The Standard Bank has only a branch in the state capital which is served by the African Continental Bank, Bank of the North and the New Nigerian Bank. The Bank of the North has branches in Gboko and Ankpa while the National Bank of Nigeria has a base in Otukpa.

HEALTH: Here emphasis has been placed on the supply of drugs to the existing hospitals for which N4 million has been provided. Generally the main concern of the Government has been the provision of health facilities to the remotest parts of the State. This fiscal year Comprehensive Health Centres at Adikpo, Oju, Ude, and Vandeikya have been approved while twenty Health Clinics are to be established in various other parts of the State. Contracts have been awarded for the construction of eight of such Health Centres, which are aimed at complementing the Services of the General Hospitals. In addition, the three new Rural Health Centres at Adoru, Aboko and Agasha will be opened for full services during this fiscal year.

The Makurdi General Hospital as well as existing hospitals are being expanded to cope with growing numbers of patients. Designs for a 4,500-bed specialist hospital at Makurdi and the new 300-bed Katsina-Ala and Otukpa hospitals are ready.

The Government has through the Federal Ministry of Finance placed orders for some of the most modern hospital equipment from and internationally reputable European firms. The equipment, valued at N10 million, will be paid for through a 15-year medium-term loan.

A School of Nursing and a School of Health Technology with intakes of 450 students each have been opened in Makurdi and Idah respectively.

CULTURAL HERITAGE: Benue is noted for its dancers. Tiv and Idoma dancers have won acclaim for both the State and Nigeria in cultural festivals. Tiv are extroverts: A Tiv man can at once be boisterous and formal, casual and friendly. He can improvise a song and a dance for every occasion and a number of these are imitations of the habits and movements of some animals and of human beings. In other words, one of the well-known symbolic dances, simulates bodily disfigurement due to disease. The dancers try to effect the most bizarre bodily contortions. This dance group has represented Nigeria at the First African Arts Festival Dakar, and has toured USA, Canada and Britain. This group also featured during the recent FESTAC as a side attraction.

Every town has its *Suwane* group, an all-night dance characterized by serpentine movements. By far the most popular is a dance-cum-puppet show called *Kwagh-hir*. This features elaborate and intricate puppetry, the nearest masquerade for a tribe with non-ancestral worship, *Kwagh-hir*.

does not only depict Tiv proficiency in handicraft but their ingenuity in manipulating the various shapes and sizes of animals, causing them to move, to jump, to knit, to smoke a pipe and even to depict soldiers executing a condemned highway robber.

The Idoma are noted for their attachment to their dead ancestors whom they worship, communally as *Alekwu*. These festivals usually take place in the dry season. The Agilas celebrate Ono Festival in April which lasts for four days. In each, there are lots of rituals, dances and spectacles to watch. Girls usually come to their husbands' houses during these periods. The leisurely period following the harvest and the cessation from heavy farm work is a time for recreation, increased tempo in social activities including the emergence of new dance groups. Odebari from Agila is one of these that has outlasted others. It is danced mainly by youths and has represented former Benue-Plateau State and Nigeria in All Africa Arts Festivals in Kenya and Addis Ababa in 1972. Other festivals celebrated at Akatsika in June, Ujoh, the new year feast in August and Ogya marking the end of the rainy season in September each year.

The Igala have numerous agricultural festivals designed to ensure abundant harvest. In them, they make sacrifices to their ancestors beseeching them for fertility and prosperity. The most important of these is Egu festival, the new year feast in July or August. In it the Egu ancestral masks appear. *Ocho*, a hunting ceremony, is celebrated after the grass is ready for burning and is accompanied by much merry-making. Immediately after *Ocho* is *Ogizigine*, a week-long celebration during which the Atah publicly appears to address the people. A day after the end of this feast is *Indipi* ceremony in memory of the young beautiful daughter of Ayegba. In legend when Ayegba's kingdom was faced with imminent defeat at the hands of the Bura, a *Yaku* priest prescribed her sacrifice to avoid the impending doom. Her father could not bring himself to do this but when *Indipi* heard of the prescription, she insisted on offering her life to save the land. She subsequently became a guardian goddess who presides over the destiny of the Igala. Her statue, conspicuously located in the centre of Idah, was the scene of worship during the festival, now abolished. From Idah district in Idah LGA comes *Aku Ajane*, a mystifying masquerade that contracts, elongates, doubles itself and performs wonderful feats.

TRADITIONAL RULERS: As a sign of the respect the Administration has for Natural Rulers and in recognition of their role for maintaining law and order, they are Presidents of the five traditional houses in the State.

TRADITIONAL COUNCILS: Atah of Igala, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje CBE, CON, is Chairman of Idah and Dekina Traditional Councils. The Tor Vio Mr. Gondo Alor and the Ochi Idoma Mr. Abraham A. Ukpebi are the Chairmen of Tiv and Idoma Traditional Councils respectively. Eje of Ankpa Alhaji Yakubu Adaji is the President of Ankpa Traditional Council while the Atah of Bassa-Kono, Mr. Joseph Ochoi heads that of Bassa.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: There are thirteen Local Government Councils in the State, which are development areas.

Name	Headquarters	Population (1976 Projected figures)
Ankpa	Ankpa	37,760
Bassa	Orama	89,550
Dekina	Dekina	170,351
Gboko	Gboko	328,979
Gwer	Alade	271,896
Idah	Idah	330,245
Katsina-Ala	Katsina-Ala	246,535
Kwande	Asikpo	247,889
Makurdi	Makurdi	263,210
Oju	Oju	153,120
Okpokwu	Okpokwu	340,803
Otuoku	Otuoku	199,174
Vandeikya	Vandeikya	294,278

Each of these has a separate administration and elected Councils headed by a Chairman who is assisted by four Supervisory Councillors.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BENUE STATE "TAKE OFF BUDGET"
A total sum of N302.6m is to be spent this financial year, N80m more than 1976/77 Financial Year.

- N101m allocated to Education.
- Five new Secondary Schools to be opened.
- N4m voted for more scholarship and purchase of drugs.
- 500-bed specialist hospital for Makurdi.
- Comprehensive Health Centres at Oju, Ude, Adikpo and Vandeikya.
- Face-lift for Makurdi, Flyover at Railway Crossing.
- 4,000 Housing Units in the State.
- N18.7m grant to Housing Authority and Housing Loan.
- Computer for Treasury Division, Ministry of Finance.
- New Water Scheme for Dekina, Idah and Ankpa.
- Boreholes for 27 Villages.
- All LGA Headquarters to get electricity.
- 300-bed hotel complex in Makurdi.
- New hotel in Ankpa, Idah and Gboko.
- More buses to join 27 already operational.

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OSHOGBO-IFE

Art workshops bring out unusual creative talents

by Michael Crowder

In Oshogbo and the near by university town of Ife, revered as the ancestral home of the Yoruba of south-western Nigeria, flourishes a group of artists without formal Western art training but employing many of its techniques and drawing inspiration from some of its ideas. This school, some of whose members have gained international reputations, has its origins in a series of art workshops organized by the Department of Extra-mural Studies at the University of Ife and later by the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ife.

The first workshop was held in Ife, but it was the series of workshops organized by the University of

Ibadan's resident extra-mural tutor in the bustling town of Oshogbo about 50 miles away that really gave rise to the establishment of this group popularly known as the Oshogbo artists. The workshops these workers attended were organized by established artists, both Nigerian and foreign, among them Ru Van Rossen, Pancho Guedes, Bruce Onobrakpema, Suzanne Wenger, Dennis Williams and Georgina Beier.

The later workshops at Ife, in contrast to the Oshogbo ones, were run on a continuing basis exclusively by Nigerian artists, notably S. Irein Wangboje, now head of Nigeria's top art school at Ahmadu Bello University, and Agbolola Folarin, a sculptor and theatre designer.

Ulli Beier, the extra-mural tutor in Oshogbo, who orga-

nized the workshops there from 1962 to 1966, although not an artist himself, played a vital role in encouraging those who showed talent to continue in their new-found profession. He has also become chief publicist for the movement.

The week-long workshops at Oshogbo, as was the later continuing workshop at Ife, were open to all-comers. Several of those who attended the Oshogbo workshops were members of the Duro Ladipo Opera Company, which was also sponsored by Ibadan's Department of Extra-mural Studies.

In the workshops the artists were encouraged to experiment in various media, including, at one workshop, etching equipment. Some who attended these sessions proved either to have no talent or else lost interest once the workshop had finished. Others like Jimoh Buraimoh, Muraina Oyelami, and Rufus Ogundele were so inspired and showed such remarkable creative talent that they continued their interest in art, at first living jointly from the sales of their work and employment in other arts, particularly Duro Ladipo's folk opera company, as musicians, actors or dancers.

Few of the artists at these workshops had education much beyond early secondary school. And, until the workshop held at Ife from 1968 to 1971, most of them came from the immediate catchment area of Oshogbo.

This writer remembers Twins-Seven arriving as an itinerant entertainer at a dance in Oshogbo. So remarkable were his dances, the more so because two figure-sevens were sewn on to the seat of his trousers, that I suggested he see Ulli Beier the next morning about the possibility of employment in the Duro Ladipo Opera Company. Soon afterwards, he attended an art workshop and demonstrated an immediate talent as a creative artist, with remarkable imagination and a superb sense of colour.

Today there are about 25 artists who have emerged as

professional artists from the Oshogbo and Ife workshops. Some of them, like Jimoh Buraimoh, live exclusively from the income derived from their art. Others like Twins-Seven have branched out—running a popular band and standing successfully last year for election as a local government councillor. Some work on their own, others in artistic co-operatives like the Oguntimilehin Art Centre in Ife where a group of Oshogbo and Ife-trained artists have taken over a disused cocoa warehouse as their communal studio.

All have been heavily influenced by Suzanne Wenger, who lives in Oshogbo, and Georgina Beier, Ulli Beier's wife. All seek inspiration from each other, while trying to develop their own distinctive style and even medium which they try to patent, rarely successfully. Thus Jimoh Buraimoh is mainly noted for the use of beads as a medium for his paintings, an idea derived from the Yoruba beaded crowns.

Adebisi uses wool and silk applique much in the style of Mexican Indian folk-art although there is no suggestion that it was from Mexico he received the idea. Fola Sorunke, an Ife rather than an Oshogbo product, specializes in "drawings from the back". All are receptive to further training and some have since attended formal art school.

Rufus Orishiyomi, who attended the Ife workshop, financed himself at Bradford College of Technology. Some of the artists have made a great deal of money and have built their own houses and bought their own cars. Others hawk their latest prints, paintings and batiks around the houses of potential patrons—Nigerian and expatriate—rather in the manner of Hausa traders selling craft work. They hold one-man and collective exhibitions both within Nigeria and abroad. Recently Yinka Aderemi and Jimoh Buraimoh exhibited at the Commonwealth Institute in London.

Many supplement their income by playing in orchestras or acting or dancing in university sponsored performing arts groups. They have a strong sense of community, often helping to sell each other's work, and the wealthier aiding the less successful. They also have their rivalries and their feuds.

In a sense they are the first contemporary Nigerian professional artists in that they derive their principal income from the sale of their work. In this they differ from the products of the Western-style art schools who by and large rely on teaching posts or employment as commercial artists for their main source of income.

Between some of the Western-trained artists and the Oshogbo-Ife artists there is, sadly, some antipathy, and even rivalry. This is not true of all Western-trained artists, some of whom, like Bruce Onobrakpema and Irein Wangboje, have actively helped them. Others like Agbolola Folarin have been inspired by their work, as is best demonstrated in his superb copper panels for the University of Ife Conference Centre, which owe a clear debt to the work of Asiru, based in Oshogbo.

The antipathy relates perhaps on the one hand to the very success many of the Oshogbo-Ife artists have achieved without degree or diploma, and on the other to the fact that their art is exotic, emphasizing the "primitive" and mythical aspects of African culture.

Some have been perhaps repetitive if not imitative of themselves. Others, once they have found a formula that sells, seem to go no further. But now, about 15 years since the movement began, they are still a lively group producing work that to this critic's mind forms a significant phase in the development of contemporary art in Nigeria.

The author is visiting professor, University of Lagos.



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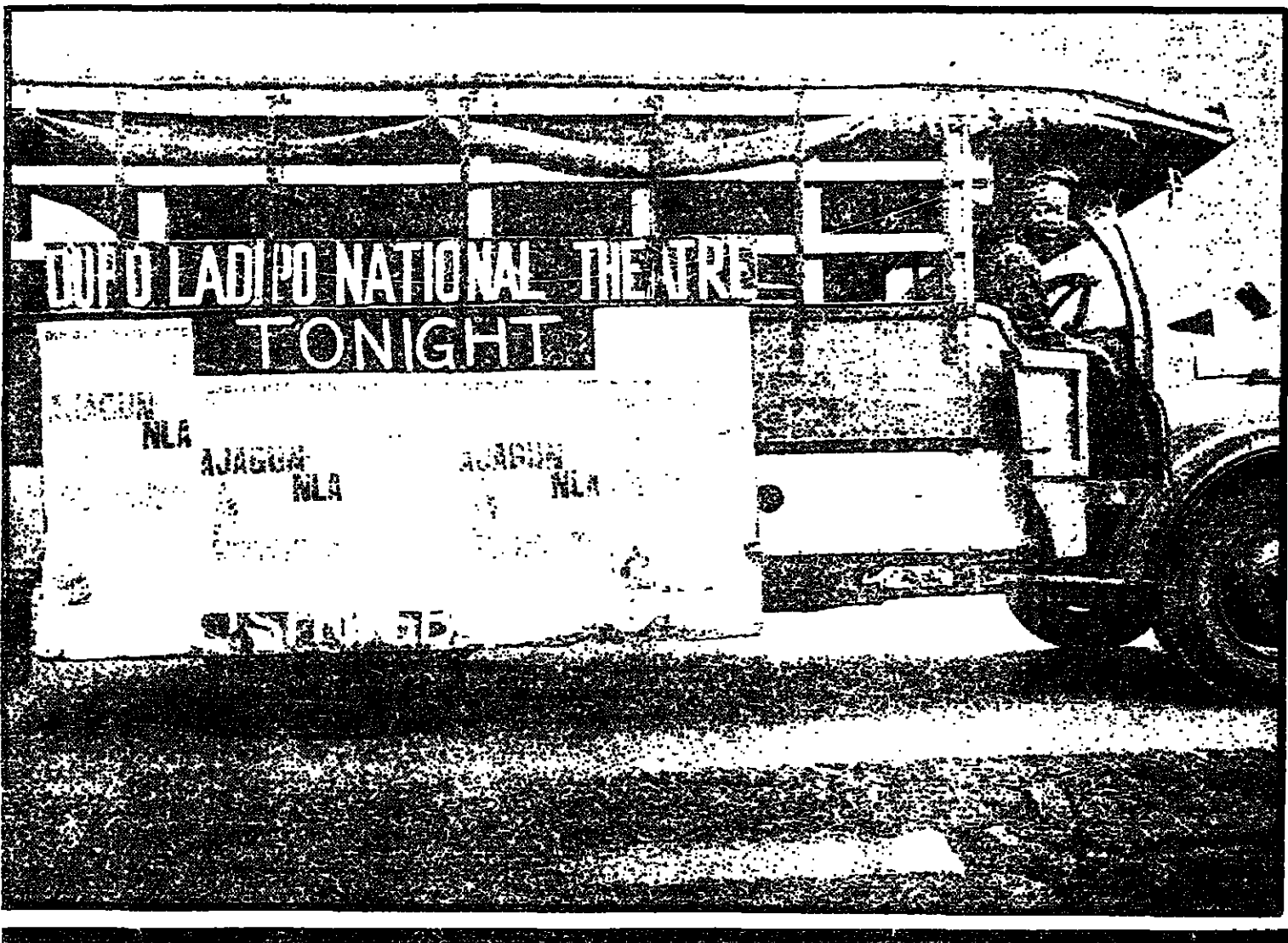


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Some facets of the art and culture which flourish in and around Oshogbo. Top: the sign which welcomes visitors to Twins-Seven's art gallery. Above (left): holy figures, by Lamidi Arusa, in Suzanne Wenger's house; and (right) cement sculpture by Braimah Akanji. Below: the mammy wagon of the Duro Ladipo folk theatre.



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HAUSAS

New art dramatizes local village life

by David Heathcote

In November 1972 a young, self-taught artist named Musa Yola completed several decorative murals in the Hausa village of Hunkuyi, in northern Nigeria.

One of them was on a small mosque belonging to Ahaji Abushiya, while a few yards away, on a large wall in the adjoining compound, the artist had placed portraits of two of Ahaji Abushiya's wives, two of his children, and his brother, shown equipped for hunting at night, with shotgun, lamp, and cartridge belt.

The appearance of Musa Yola's paintings was greeted in Hunkuyi, and other villages where he worked, with great enthusiasm. The pictures were a new experience, a dramatization of local life that was immensely impressive. The villages already had other wall decorations, but nothing like this.

Musa's range of subject matter was apparently unlimited, and the people whose portraits could be seen in the murals were delighted to find themselves so realistically portrayed, in what must have seemed to be a kind of permanent cinema show.

It was understandable that Musa Yola occasionally referred to himself as *mai Hoto* (the photographer). The camera has been particularly influential in bringing about changes in Hausa attitudes towards representation, and in Musa's case his methods were especially close to photographic techniques, for his subjects were taken straight from life.

In 1931 the Waziri of Kano decided at an advisory meeting that as photographs cast no shadows he had no objection to their use in a proposed local newspaper.

Since then, as a result of closer links with Europe, the flow of pictorial images before the public eye has increased greatly. First came newspaper and magazine illustrations, and pictures on the printed wrappings of goods available in the markets; then advertising hoardings, the cinema, and eventually television, while portrait photography became established as one of the most flourishing of new urban trades.

The new imagery did not bring about a sudden dramatic change in the character of Hausa art, though it certainly prepared the way for innovations, such as those introduced by Musa Yola. What it did do was to encourage a widening of the range of imagery used by Hausas who worked at the traditional arts.

At about the same time that the Waziri of Kano decided on the acceptability of newspaper photographs, wall decorations working on the instructions of the Emir of Kano were elaborately decorated with moulded and painted reliefs a bedroom and living room in the old treasury, in the Mandawari quarter.

These rooms were to be used by a Kano princess, whose husband had been treasurer. The decorations included several symbols connected with the palace, such as a large sword, spears, shotguns, and ceremonial abutment ewers.

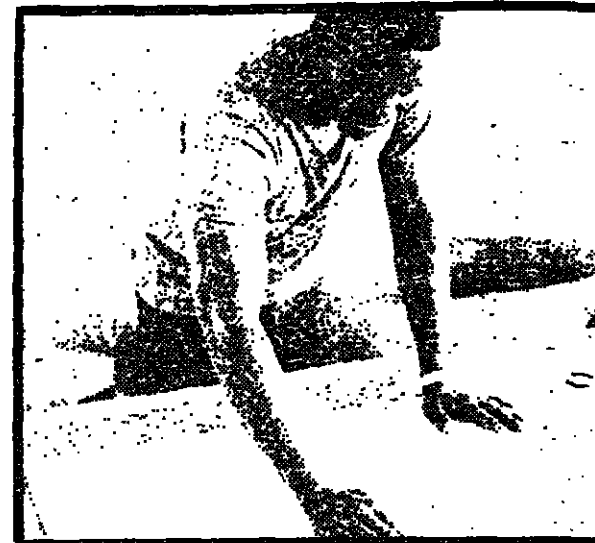
More striking, and distinctly more ambitious and up to date, was the representation of what may have been intended as a steam boat or, more likely, a locomotive. Images of this kind, including aircraft and cars, also came to be used in the ornamentation of Hausa woven cloth and hand-embroidered caps, though in these contexts they tended to be simpler than the Kano treasury example and easier to decipher.

So far, every significant development in Hausa art has been in some way associated with a traditional craft. The most spectacular changes have occurred in wall decorations and embroidery. No one has yet attempted an experiment among the Hausa such as that of the summer schools and Mbari Club at Oshogbo, in southern Nigeria, which created a centre for the production of works of art that were easily sold to foreigners.

The tourist trade in Hausaland has to some extent encouraged the production of new kinds of leatherwork and metal ornaments, but the most important changes in the Hausa arts have come about as a result of indigenous needs.

Apart from a wall that Musa Yola painted for me in a museum room I was arranging in Zaria, and a small batch of easel paintings he made when I was unable to find him another commission, all his work was done for local Hausa people.

Local demand and the extension of local techniques have led to developments in other areas. Some of the simply-made furniture sold in Hausa markets is now decorated by means of a modified traditional method



A Hausa man wearing a cap embroidered by a young pupil with a design that includes a car and a mosque. Right: a BA fine art student working in the textile studio of Ahmadu Bello University. Top: Musa Yola with his mural on a village house. The painting contains several portraits.

used in the making of horse trappings: the use of appliquéd aluminium, in this case obtained from discarded kerosene tins.

Aluminium is now used to make the long trumpets that announce the arrival of an *anki*. Formerly they were made of copper. Other modern materials and methods are also used. Imported lures thread can now be found in the hand-woven Hausa cloth, and imported sewing machines are an established feature of Hausa tailoring.

Yet in spite of the adaptability of some of the crafts, men, and the use of old-established techniques, one cannot be optimistic about the future of most of the Hausa crafts.

Some are in rapid decline, some are clearly dying. The amount of decorated weaving, wood carving, and pottery seems to be constantly diminishing, and it is mainly old men who are keeping some of the crafts going.

In the case of embroidery,

however, the opposite seems to be true. Embroidery still attracts many young people, for it is a pleasant way of making a little money, and the outlay on materials can be small.

Young boys can invariably be seen during the day sitting at the side of city streets, stitching away at caps. Most of these young embroiderers cater for the demand for multicoloured caps, which during the past three decades have been replacing the older turbans.

Each cap is slightly different. Apart from locally inspired designs, patterns are borrowed from Borno, in north-eastern Nigeria, and farther afield, from Mecca and North Africa.

To encourage the sale of their caps embroiderers give them topical names, such as those of prominent personalities or important events. One design, which became popular when Nigeria changed over from driving on the left to driving

on the right, was called "Keep to the right", and two more recent patterns, both of them abstract ones, have been named "Murtala's tomb", which is a reference to the late head of state, and "Obasanjo's administration", which is a reference to the present head.

Cap decorations include a great variety of motifs from cars and mosques, to plants, animals, and abstract symbols.

A notable contribution to the recent development of Hausa art has been made by the women. The role of women in the traditional Hausa arts seems always to have been a secondary one, though women have helped by weaving and potting and making baskets.

Some women still weave a little on their own type of loom, and women in Argungu make pottery dolls that appear to have no counterparts in the work of the men.

Women and girls now

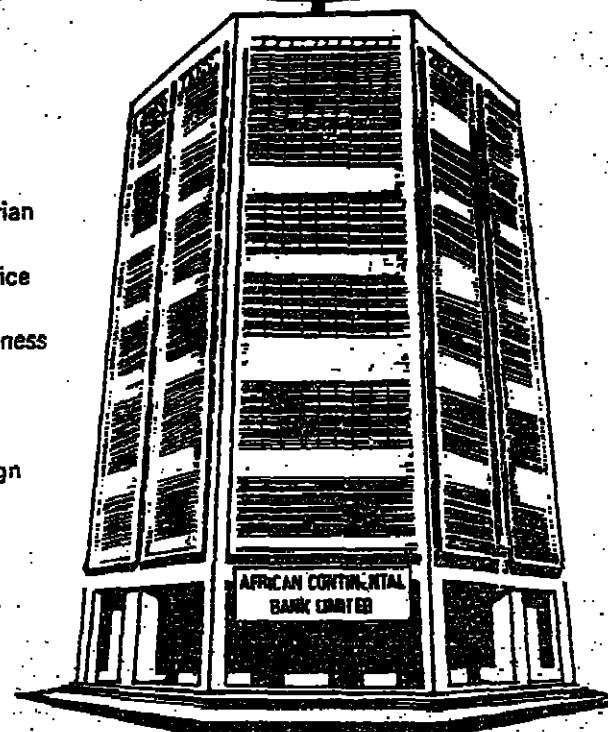
make a lot of cap embroidery, and they have also taken to decorating pillow cases and bed covers with ornamental sewing that is often lively in design and original in its subject matter.

If the traditional Hausa crafts continue to decline there is still the question of what present-day Hausa students may eventually achieve. There are now many of these studying in the degree and diploma courses of the fine art department of Ahmadu Bello University, where they learn techniques such as silk-screen printing, portrait painting, and the making of high-fired ceramics.

Perhaps it will not be long before some of these students, drawn from the most populous group of people in Nigeria, become artists with substantial international reputations.

The author is senior lecturer in art history, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

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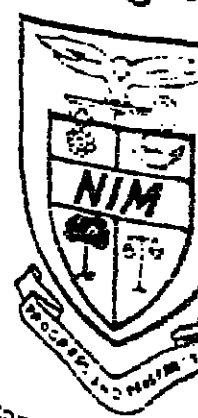
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DRAMA FOR FARMERS

Play's the thing but demand for fertilizer comes first

by Michael Ethernott

Before the 1977 rains began, in the heat of April, two small buses and an open lorry lurched down dry, weather tracks to four remote Hausa villages in the north of Nigeria. They carried 30 drama students from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, their tutors, a wooden stage and sets, grass mats and chairs.

The plays which these students were to perform for poorer farmers in these villages was the outcome of a joint drama and agricultural project called *Wazari Manoma*—literally, "plays for farmers". It was a unique experiment in Nigeria in using the skills of drama students, in the middle of their degree and as an integral part of it, for communicating to rural communities specific development objectives.

Three experiments are being tried elsewhere in Africa. They are based on the realization that the real media for disseminating scientific information helpful to rural African communities are the so-called folk-media: masquerades, drumming and dancing, story-telling and the songs of the wandering praise-singers: in other words, the live performance. It is the live performance which makes the community development message so immediate and pertinent, and which emphasizes the basic goals of participation and self-reliance.

The students reached the first of the two villages they were going to that day by

10 am, with the temperature already in the nineties. The farmers were expecting them. The headman had arranged for a space to be cleared under a large mango tree, under which the students decided to put their audience after arranging the chairs and mats. Then they erected their stage in the middle of the field facing the tree and backed by the mud walls and domes of one of the farmer's compounds.

The audience converged from all over the village; the headman arrived with his councillors, and the farmers, young and old, crowded round them sitting two on a chair or lying on the mats. On one horn of the semi-circle was a crowd of children, and on the other a group of women, which was unique to that village since most women in this Muslim area are kept in purdah and not allowed to see the plays. A faint breeze billowed the cotton curtains which were erected in front of the stage. The buses and the lorry concealed the back-stage area where the students changed into their costumes.

If the staging was outlandish, what was enacted when the curtains were drawn back was not. For these plays, all in Hausa, were about their lives: as farmers, traders, wives, headman, town-crier. One play was about the rhetoric of government and agricultural development; another was about fertilizer-swindling by traders and corrupt officials. A third play showed selfish peasant

farmers manipulating a weak headman against their fellow farmers; and the final play showed the need for farmers to cooperate and organize themselves more effectively against corruption. The plays lasted for just under two hours.

At the end of the performance the farmers and other villagers were invited to join in discussions with the students and the rural sociologists who were involved in the project. In the general discussion about the non-availability of fertilizer there was a recurrent complaint about the lack of village organization. One farmer said: "We have not come together to discuss our problems like this for many years." But the women privately told some of the female students that the men in the village would never cooperate with each other.

The plays had been developed by first, the students visiting the villages and having informal discussions with the farmers about their problems. The students explained that they were not bringing fertilizer but plays about fertilizer. The farmers replied that they would pay for the fertilizer; but if the plays were the only thing on offer then at least let them be about the farmers not getting the fertilizer which they were promised. The students perceived a sharp discrepancy between the rhetoric of agricultural development and actual practice; and a latent antagonism between farmers and rural officialdom.

Back on campus the students improvised plays around the themes and characters which had been described to them, bringing the issues into focus through briefing by agriculturalists and their own research. The plays were refined in front of a specialized audience of

extension workers so that each play made a precise and detailed statement. For instance the first play, which showed university students arriving in a village to help the farmers under the aegis of the Government's Operation Feed the Nation scheme, avoided making the students bad and the farmers good or vice versa. Instead, one farmer was in favour of learning new methods of farming while another was conservative; and the students ranged from the socialist idealist to the urban bourgeois. The point at issue was that no one could make a scheme work which had not been fully thought out and which lacked the appropriate services.

The final play, too, avoided a glib argument in favour of cooperatives. The word itself is suspect in rural Hausaland; the play showed the extent of cooperation against exploitation which local traders is directly dependent on the degree of self-sufficiency which the farmers are prepared to make, as well as on the presence of an organizer who can read, write and think ahead. Like this play, the other two argued for self-reliance which was not just pragmatic but which sprang from clearly articulated social responsibilities. The validity of these statements was proved in the detail of the discussions after each performance.

While the Hausa-speaking students were engaged in discussion with the villagers, the non-Hausa speakers dismantled the stage and loaded it back on to the lorry. An hour later the motorized caravan squeezed out of the village between the narrow mud walls, with the children running behind, and farmers riding ahead, weaving their bikes at speed along the tracks to announce the players' arrival in the next village. The performance there was arranged for the late afternoon between the 4 pm call to prayer and the prayers at sunset.

The performance of these plays in the morning and the evening reflected both the pre-planting season and the pattern of the Muslim day. The plays also reflected a Muslim sensibility in their presentation. At the request of one village headman all drumming and dancing was excluded (although these elements would have been obligatory for non-Muslim communities).

There were five performances in three days: one before the district commissioner, the Dagachin, in the square outside his palace, and the other four in the four chosen villages. The Dagachin's approval was crucial and the stage, with its sets and curtains—all of which had a clear function—was less of a cultural imposition than performances from other regions might have been.

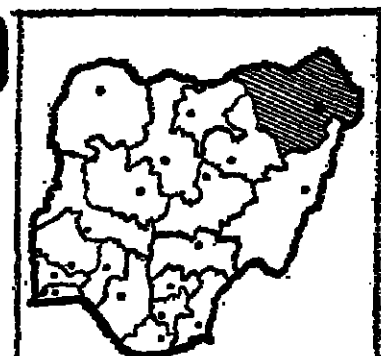
Unfortunately, the follow-up on the project was inadequate. The farmers wanted detailed help in getting themselves organized and the students were not trained to do this. They also wanted more performances on a wider range of issues which would bring the community together at regular intervals and help to coordinate the work of the development agencies.

These are aspects which must be carefully considered in next year's project. However, the impact of the plays in social terms was considerable and shows clearly what a powerful agent for change theatre can be in a developing society.

The author is senior lecturer and head of drama at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.



BORNO STATE OF NIGERIA



Borno is the largest of all the nineteen states in the Federation, covering an area of some 116,583 square kilometres. It has an estimated population of 5,670,000. The state shares borders with the neighbouring Republics of Niger to the North, Chad to the North-East and the Cameroon to the East.

It occupies the greater part of the large Chad Basin located in the North-Eastern corner of Nigeria. The capital, Maiduguri lies roughly on latitude 11°N and longitude 13.5°E. It has a population of over 200,000. Maiduguri has a good network of roads covering the town and the railways and airways systems link her with other towns within and outside the state.

It has many infrastructural facilities which included an International Hotel—the Lake Chad, the Kyari Park, the University of Maiduguri, General Hospital and Nursing Home and several post-primary institutions.

The most important geographical feature of Borno is Lake Chad's shoreline which lies within Nigeria were virtually isolated from the rest of the country because of poor communications. Roads were little more than old cattle trails and the nearest railway was at Kuru some 640 kilometres away. This isolation meant slow and cumbersome transportation of fish and fish products from the lake to other parts of Nigeria with inevitable infestation because there were no proper storage facilities enroute.

But two events in recent years have made the lake's fish harvest a significant factor in helping to balance Nigeria's diet. First was the extension of the road to Maiduguri which is a mere 200 kilometres from the Southern edge of the lake; second was the construction of the road between Maiduguri and Lake Chad. The second phase of this road, the Kankawa-Malam-Factor-Baga road, is under survey and design. Construction costs will be about N15 (15.6m).

Lake Chad varies in size during the year between 5,400 kilometres and 16,000 kilometres (about a quarter of the lake's surface lies in Nigeria) and though it recedes in area because of the severe drought which hit the state in the 1972-74 period, it is now gradually coming back to its original size.

Highest water level of about 4.6 metres is reached in December each year in the southern part of the lake. No large rivers flow into Chad from the Nigeria side. Almost all of the inflow coming from the Chari-Logone river basin in the Cameroonian Gambia and Yedseram on the Nigerian side flow towards the lake but become lost in a trough before they reach it.

PRESENT CATCH:

The annual amount of fish caught on the Nigerian part of the lake at present is between 10,000 and 15,000 tons but the possibilities of improving the catch are good following the establishment of various research units by the state government. It is reckoned that about 5,000 Nigerians are employed in the fishing industry at the lake.

In 1964, the four countries sharing the lake, established the Lake Chad Basin Commission in order to step up the development of the basin in an integrated manner. In 1965 the commission asked Food and Agricultural Organisation and UNESCO to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study of the land and water resources of the basin for development purposes.

The study which took five years to complete showed that there is more than one million acres of rich land which can be irrigated with water pumped from the lake on the Nigerian side based on this 200,000 acres have been drawn up and included in the current Third National Development Plan.

The Federal Government has since established the Chad Basin Development

Authority by Decree to implement the project.

The first phase of 200,000 acres will be completed by 1980 when the project is expected to produce 150,000 metric tons of cotton per annum. The area under irrigation will be doubled to 400,000 acres in the 4th Development plan period from 1980 to 85 and the crop production will similarly be doubled by 300,000 tons of rice, 200,000 tons of wheat and 50,000 tons of cotton.

CLIMATE

The climate is hot and dry for the greater part of the year in the Northern part of the state. To the South, that is Askira, Bili, and Fika areas, the climate is a bit mild. In Maiduguri, the hottest months are March and April with temperature ranging between 39-40° (under the shade).

The period of wet season varies from place to place because of the influence of various climate factors such as the direction of the rain bearing winds and topography. The length of the wet season in Maiduguri, Gubio, Nnamdi and other places north of the state is 120 days. Elsewhere, in the state that is further south the days extend to 140.

Rainfall season starts from June in most dry areas of the state but as early as April in upland places like Bili, Gwoza, and Uba.

VEGETATION

There are two major vegetational zones in the state:—

1. THE SAHEL: This is a little belt stretching from latitude 12°N of the Equator and covering most of Lake Chad and extending eastwards to longitude 10°E of the Greenwich meridian. The vast stretches of plains consist of Fergis soil on which certain species of grass grow with the landscape mainly broken by occasional trees. Here, most of the wheat lands of the Borno State are situated, especially in Yobe, and South Chad Irrigation Schemes at Maiduguri-Ngala.

2. THE SUDAN ZONE: This zone consists of scrubby vegetation interspersed with tall trees.

A wide variety of ethnic groups. The official language is English but Kanuri, Bolewa, Babur, Bade are widely spoken vernaculars. Other languages include Marghi, Shuwa, Ngdim, Walm, Guduf, Matakam, Wula, Kere-Kere and Fulani. Hausa is widely spoken throughout the state as a lingua franca.

HISTORY:

The ancient kingdom of Borno has played an important part in the history of Africa since the middle ages and it was at one time a powerful kingdom of Kanemi referred to by the famous Arab Writer and Philosopher El-Bekri as stretching eastwards to Ashar University, Cairo, since 15th century. During the time of Mai Idris Aloma (1570-1602) the kingdom of Borno enjoyed an unbroken period of prosperity. He was the most powerful ruler in West Central Africa of his days.

After a period of decline, the kingdom of Borno was restored and revitalised at the beginning of the 19th century by a new line of rulers founded by Shehu El Anin El-Kanemi, a scholar and statesman.

He founded the town of Kuka (Kukawa) less than 26 kilometres to Lake Chad in 1814. It was there that he received Desbun and Clapperton, the two British explorers of 1822 and 1824.

The principal tribe of Borno, the Kanuri, is considered to be a mixture of Arab, Hamitic and Negro tribes established in the area for many centuries and they can still be found east of the Chad Republic, an area which covers the greater part of the former Kanem Empire. The Kanuri claim descent from Saif

Ibn Dhi'l Yazman, himself an Arab. As early as 145 A.D. a long line of the Sultans and Mals had ruled before the founding of Birnin Ngargamu, the then capital of Borno Empire.

The early days of Borno brought Islam to the people of Chad and Sudan Basin. The Borno Moslem era is known to have begun with Ummu Hani who reigned around 1086 A.D. A College for Borno students had existed in Cairo since the 15th century.

Equally important is the history of the live independent emirates of Bedde, Bili, Gwoza and Fika which form part of Borno State. The arrival of Bades to the Western part of Borno was believed to be around 1300 A.D. and from then on the consolidation of their position under the leadership of successive strong leaders, prominent among whom was Lavan Babuje, son of Digur Alewira with his headquarters at Gorgoran.

The Bili emirate is mostly inhabited by Babur-Bura who though without early written records had fairly rich oral tradition. Their ancestors, the Yamar Wala was born in Birnin Ngargamu. He first reached Pabir at Libir, a place between Mandingrau and Chelwoldi.

The Fika emirate is heterogeneous in population and Bolewas who have written history while the others recall their past orally. The Bolewas are said to have left Yemen in South Arabia about 600 years ago led by their war lord, Maigadi. They were probably Kanama immigrants and when they left Yemen they moved together with some thirty-five other people including the Kanuri and the Jakus.

With the imposition of European colonial rule, the sultanate of Borno and the Emirates of Bade, Bili and Fika were grouped in Borno province in the then British Protectorate of Northern Nigeria.

Until the 1914 war, the present Dikwa Emirate and Gwoza Local Authority area were in German Cameroons. Subsequently, Dikwa and Gwoza were incorporated in Borno province as protectorates from the defunct League of Nations and its successor United Nations Organisation.

When both Nigeria and Cameroon became independent in 1960, the United Nations took over direct responsibility for the administration of Northern and Southern Cameroons Trust Territories and organised a plebiscite in 1961, in which the people of the two territories were asked to vote either to join Nigeria or the Cameroonian Republic. The North voted to join Nigeria and the South joined Cameroonian Republic.

ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP

The State is governed by an executive council, members of which are appointed by the Military Governor who is himself the Chairman. There is also a council of Chiefs with the Shehu of Borno as Chairman.

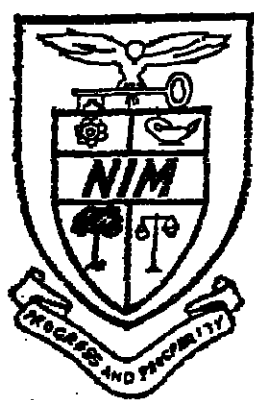
With the recent implementation of the Local Government reforms, Borno State has been divided into seventeen local government areas and one Maiduguri-Yewa Metropolitan local government. The seventeen local governments are Bade with a population of 134,250, Fika (314,847), Bili (293,070), Askira/Uba (131,570), Bama (21,897), Bama, Gwoza (99,012), Galdam (304,205), Karamo (449,556), Nguri (304,245), Monguno (268,688), Konduga (276,108), Kaga (261,601), Fune (194,261), Damaturu (277,878), Damboa (161,139) and Guba (120,321). There are six Emirate councils. They are Borno, Bade, Dikwa, Bili Fika and Gwoza. These councils are advisory in nature.

The state's wealth comes from fisheries, cattle and agriculture, producing such crops as groundnuts, cotton, gum-arabic, millet, rice and wheat. Gum Arabic is also being tapped in the Northern part of the state.



Students perform their plays before the Dagachin (District Commissioner) of Soba, Kaduna state.

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